ON EARTH PEACE, GOOD WILL TO MEN

The very first Christmas Carol ever heard in the world astonished the shepherds in the snowy fields near Bethlehem, almost two thousand years ago:—

> *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly hosts, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men."*

Remembering the heavenly music of that first Christmas, men ever since have been trying to express the wonder and joy of Christmas through music, in the songs that have become our Christmas Carols.

ADESTE FIDELIS

This is one of the oldest Christmas Carols we know. It was chanted, in Latin, by the monks of the Middle Ages at their Christmas services. It is believed to have been written by St. Bonaventure, an associate of St. Francis of Assisi, who began the custom of the Christmas crib in Greccio, Italy, back in 1223.

This was a display of the Nativity scene, in which St. Francis used real people and live animals to show Christ's birth in the stable. The crowds who came to see this scene were asked to join in the singing, and so St. Francis was the father of our custom of singing Christmas Carols together.

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

If you have read Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol", you will remember that this song is a Christmas tradition in England. However, it is not English, but Welsh. The people of Wales love to sing, and have given us many fine songs, such as "Deck the Halls", and "All Through the Night."

SILENT NIGHT

The words of this Carol came to a Catholic priest, Rev. Joseph Mohr, one Christmas Eve as he was returning to his church from a sick call. It was a beautiful, starry night in the mountains of Austria. Rev. Mohr had music on his mind that night, for mice had got into the church organ, and chewed up the bellows that pumped air through the pipes. There would be no music in church for Christmas Day.

Thinking of this, and struck with the beauty of the night, words began to come into his mind—"Silent night, holy night; all is calm, all is bright . . ." It seemed like a wonderful song for Christmas, if it could be set to music. But how could they play it in church next day?

Rev. Mohr happened to be passing the home of Franz Gruber, the church organist and also the village schoolteacher. On an impulse, the priest went in to talk about his problem of music for Christmas, and also to show him the words he had written. Gruber liked the words, and puzzled over how to present this song—or any song—in a church without an organ. Then he had an idea!

"I'll write this song for the guitar! And we'll sing it in church to the guitar!"

Rev. Mohr had never heard of a guitar being played in church but already Franz Gruber was writing down the music of "Silent Night" for the guitar, and in less than an hour he was finished.

On that Christmas Day in 1818, he and the priest sang it for the first time to the music of a guitar, and it has spread all over the world since.

I SAW THREE SHIPS A-SAILING

This Carol tells of seeing Jesus and Mary arriving in Bethlehem by *ship*, which is strange, because Bethlehem is surrounded by land! The explanation is that this was a favorite Christmas song of sailors, in the time of Columbus. Being sailors, they probably thought that they might as well have a Christmas song about ships!

THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

This Carol, probably more fun to sing than any other Christmas song, is a very old English folk song, going back to the days when Christmas was celebrated for twelve days, beginning with Christmas Day. A record has been made of an amusing Hawaiian version of this song, sung by Ed Kenney, one of the finest young singers from our 50th State.

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

The words for this song were written in 1853 to the tune of an old spring Carol. The story it tells is based on the life of a real person, Good King Wenzel, who was King of Bohemia (now a part of Czechoslovakia), in the Tenth Century. He was well-loved for his gifts to the poor on St. Stephen's Day, the day after Christmas, as told in the Carol.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

This Carol is sung to the tune "Greensleeves" which was a popular song in England in the Sixteenth Century and is still being sung today. The words were a popular cradle song of about that time.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley, brother of the founder of Methodism, was a preacher and also a great writer of hymns for that Church. On Christmas morning in 1739, the joyful church bells were ringing all over the English countryside, and they reminded Wesley of the voices of the angels as they sang on the first Christmas day. Immediately he sat down and, in a very short time, composed the song that is one of our most popular Carols. We sing it now to the music composed by the great Felix Mendelssohn.

GUARDIAN ANGELS

The music for this modern Carol, made famous by the late Mario Lanza, was written by a comedian and also a fine musician—Harpo Marx, the brother of Groucho. You may have seen him in the old Marx Brothers movies, playing the harp that gave him his nickname.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

This is the very first Christmas hymn of the Church. In the year 129, Telesphorous, the Bishop of Rome, ordered that this "Angel's Hymn" be sung at Christmas. It has been sung for 1,631 Christmases since then—more than any other Christmas song we know!

THE MESSIAH

This is not a Carol, but a great "oratorio" that is played and sung everywhere every Christmas, in churches, concert halls, on radio and television. An oratorio is a piece of music designed to be sung by soloists and a big chorus, with full orchestra and an organ.

"The Messiah" (Savior) is one of the greatest oratorios ever written, and to the composer it seemed that he was inspired by God, for he wrote: "I did think that I did see all Heaven before me, and the Great God Himself."

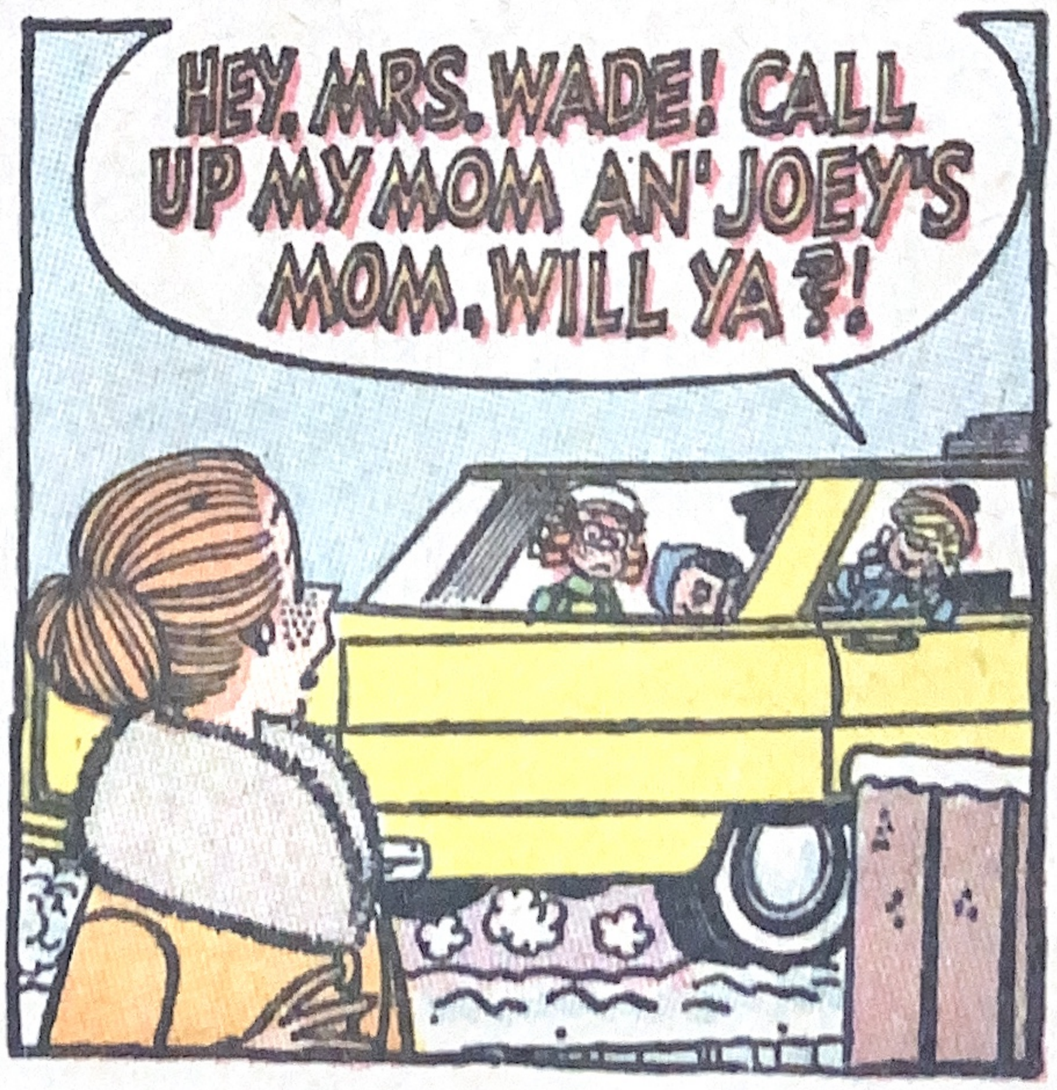
This tremendous inspiration came in 1741 to a poor barber's son, George Frederick Handel, who had dreamed all his life of writing great music. It came to him in a cold London flat, when he was bankrupt, half paralyzed, and in despair. For 22 days and nights he worked on his masterpiece, seldom eating or sleeping, and brought into the world the greatest piece of Christmas music ever written.

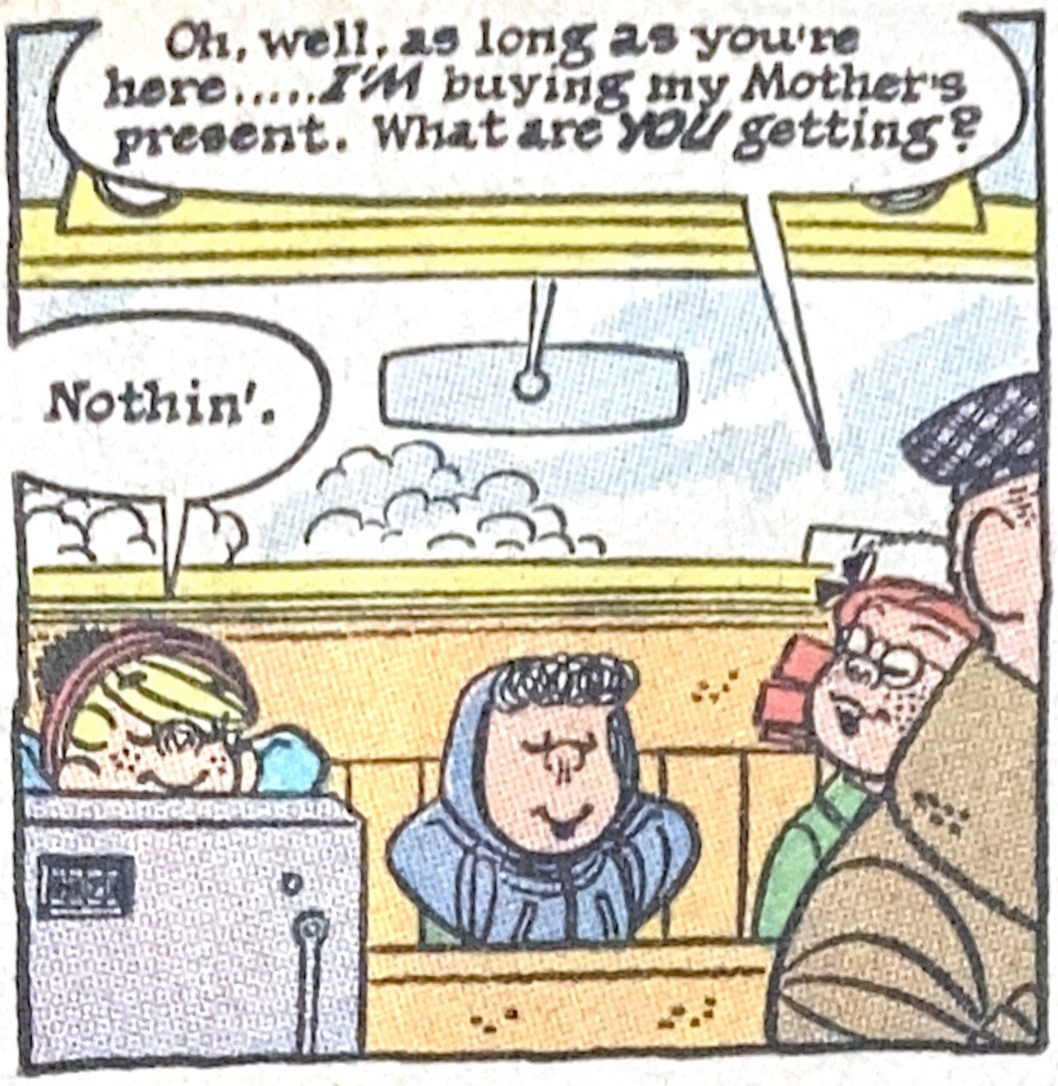
It is hard to imagine a Christmas without these Carols, but there was a time when it was *forbidden* to sing them!

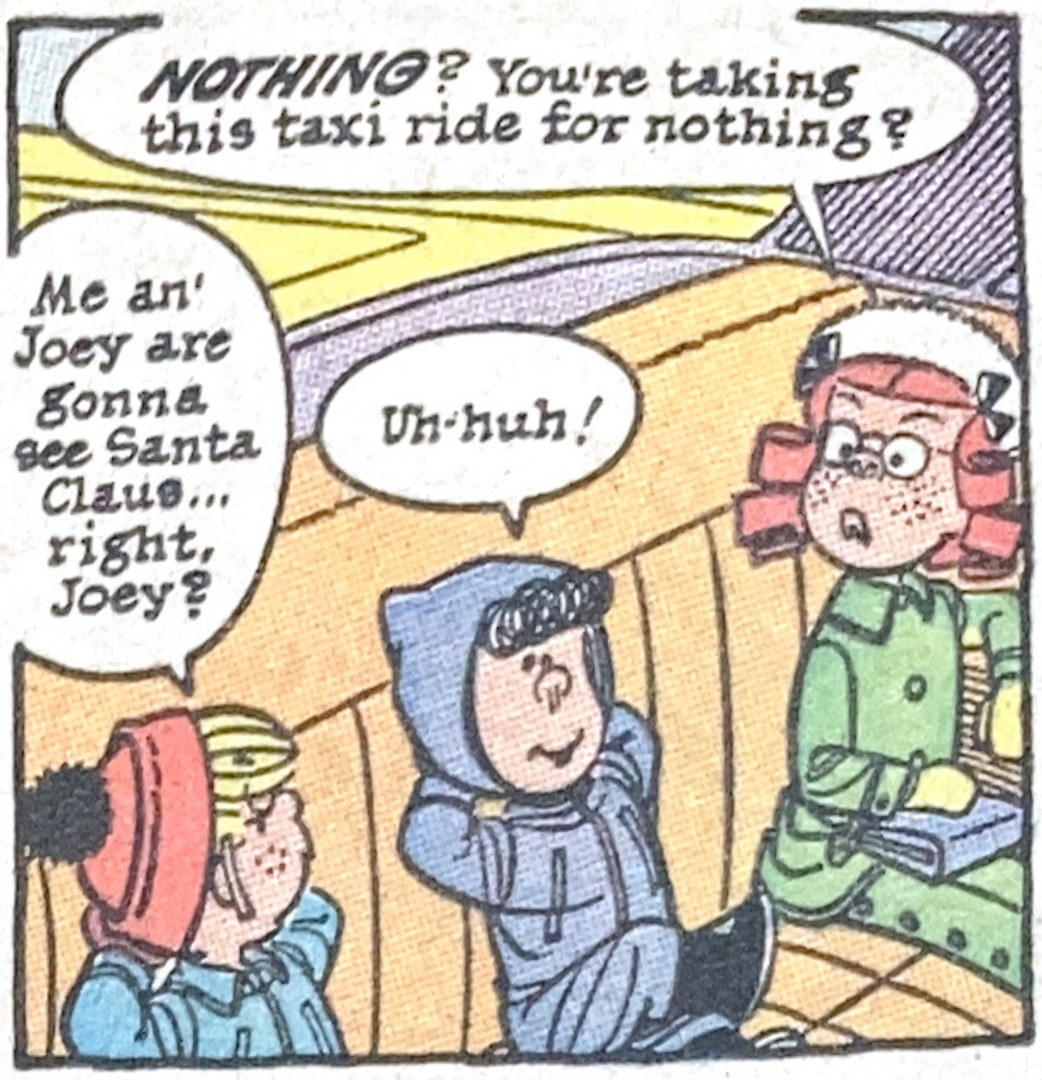
This was during the Reformation, when the Puritans thought it was bad to have fun at Christmas time. Even Christmas Day itself was officially abolished by them during the Seventeenth Century! They thought it was too serious a time for feasting and singing.

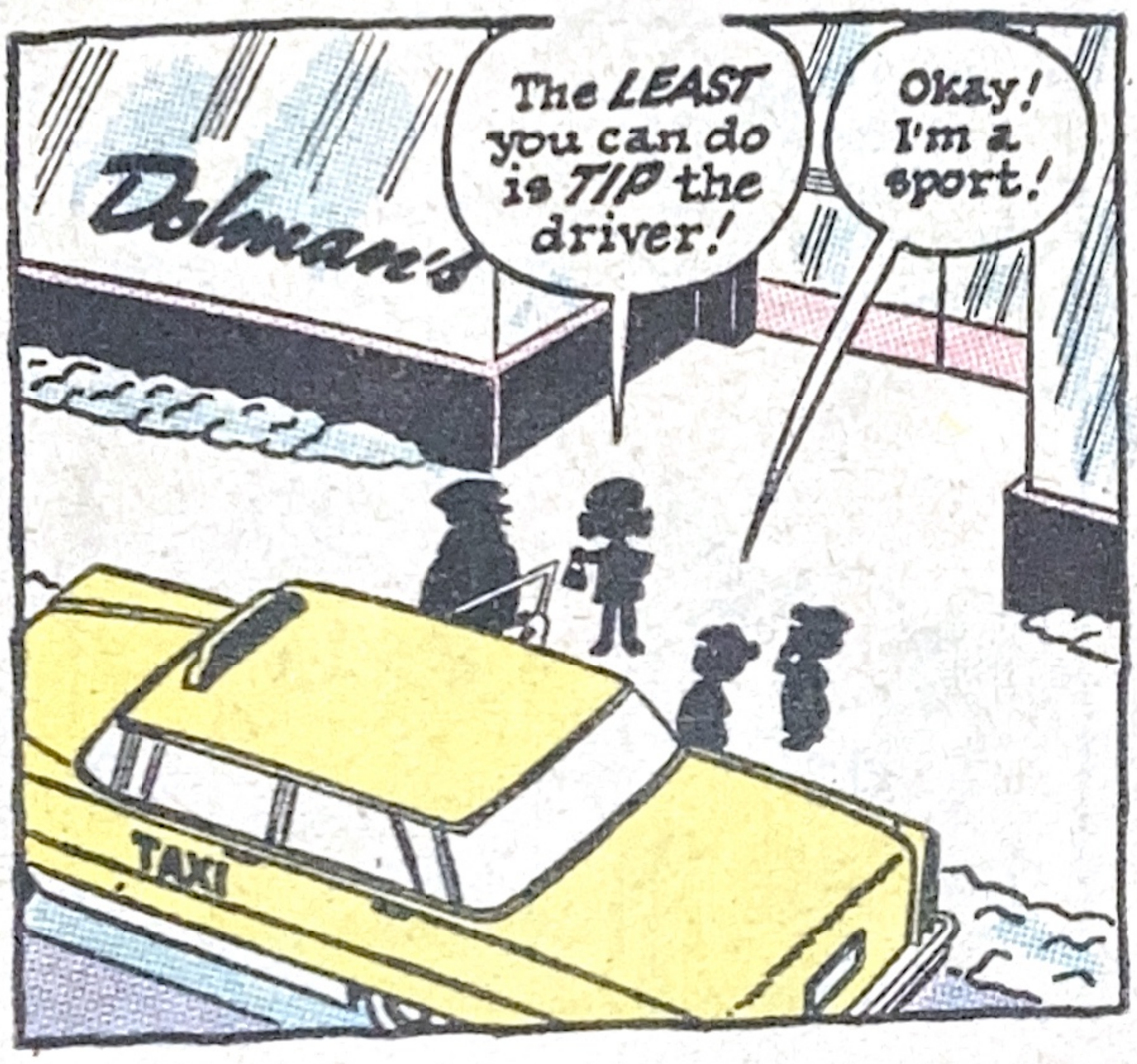
Now, of course, we think differently, and we celebrate this happy time with the songs, some very old, some recent, that tell the story of Christ's birthday—our Christmas Carols.

HOPPING AROUND

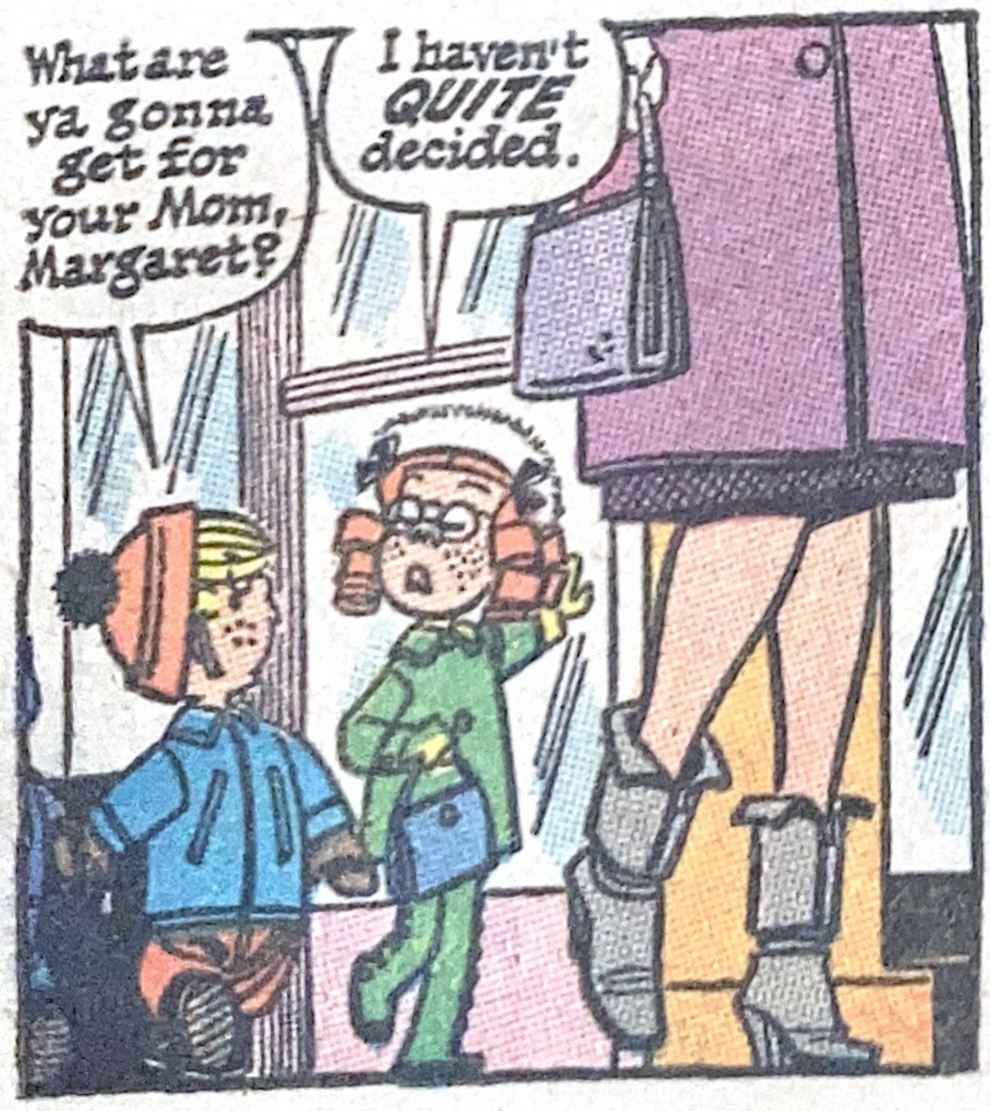


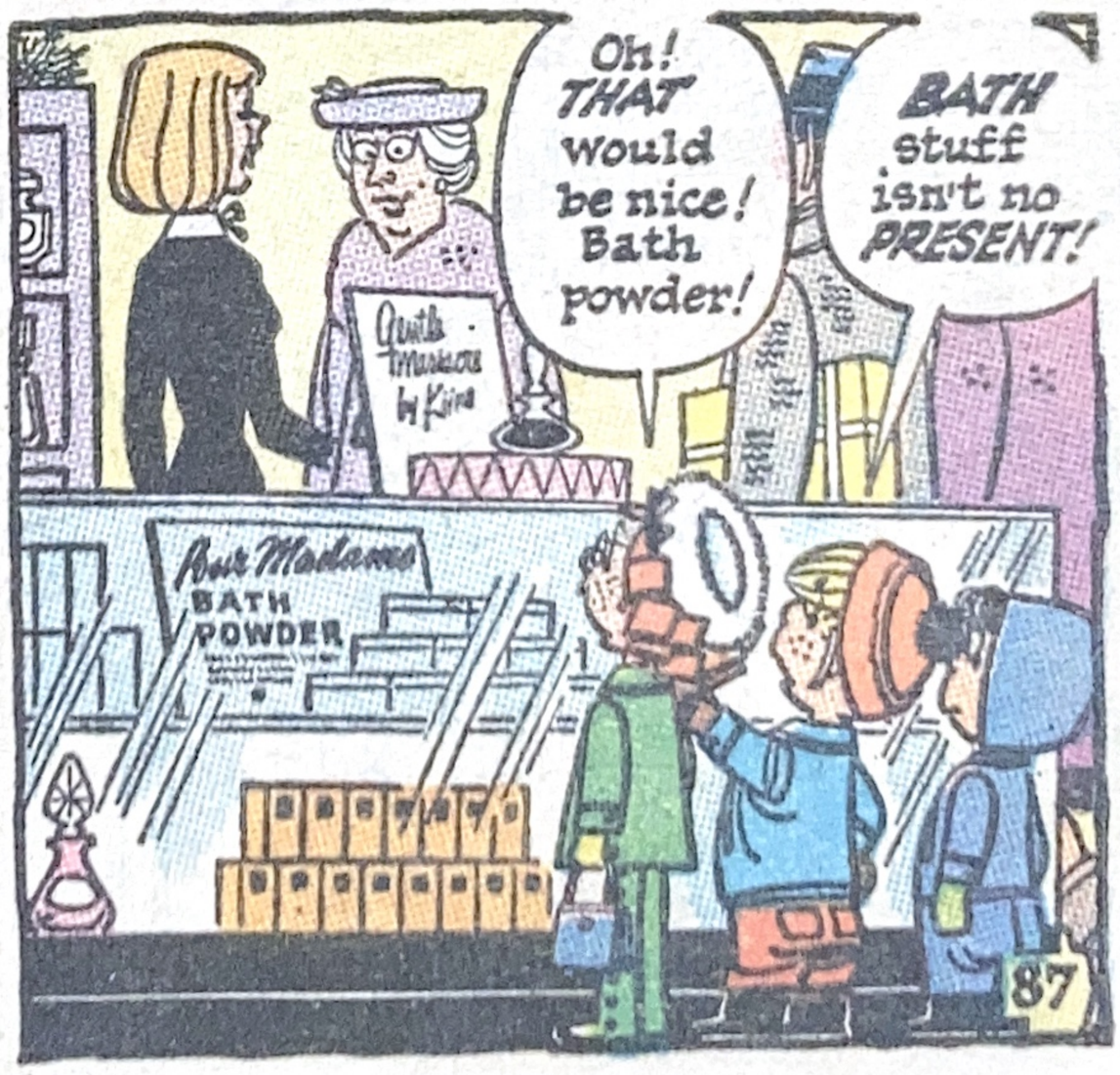

Oh, well, as long as you're here.....I'M buying my Mother's present. What are YOU getting?
Nothin'.

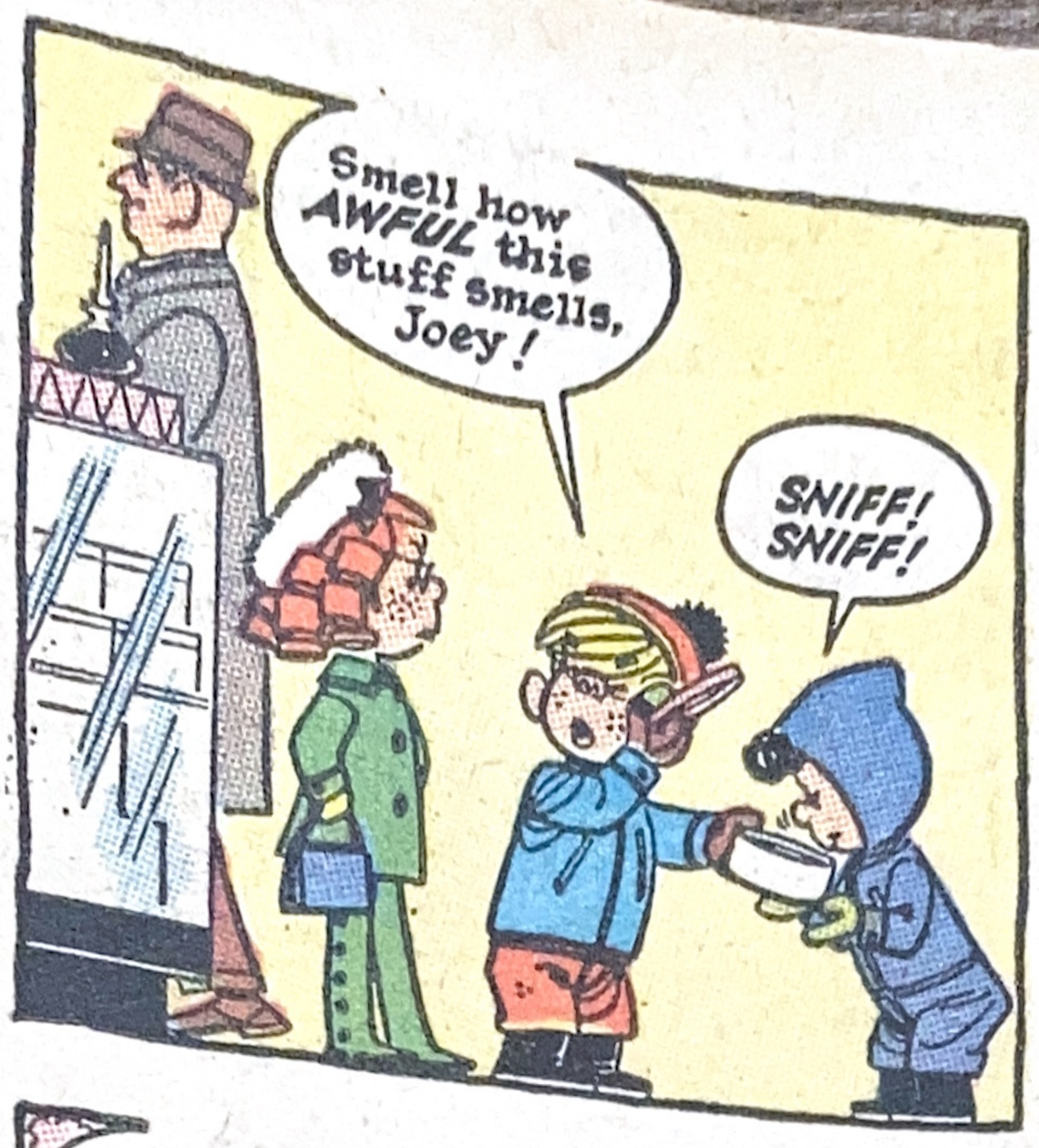

NOTHING? You're taking this taxi ride for nothing?
Me an' Joey are gonna see Santa Claus... right, Joey?
Uh-huh!


Dolman's
The LEAST you can do is TIP the driver!
Okay! I'm a sport!
TAXI

TWO CENTS?! Golly! Now I can RETIRE!

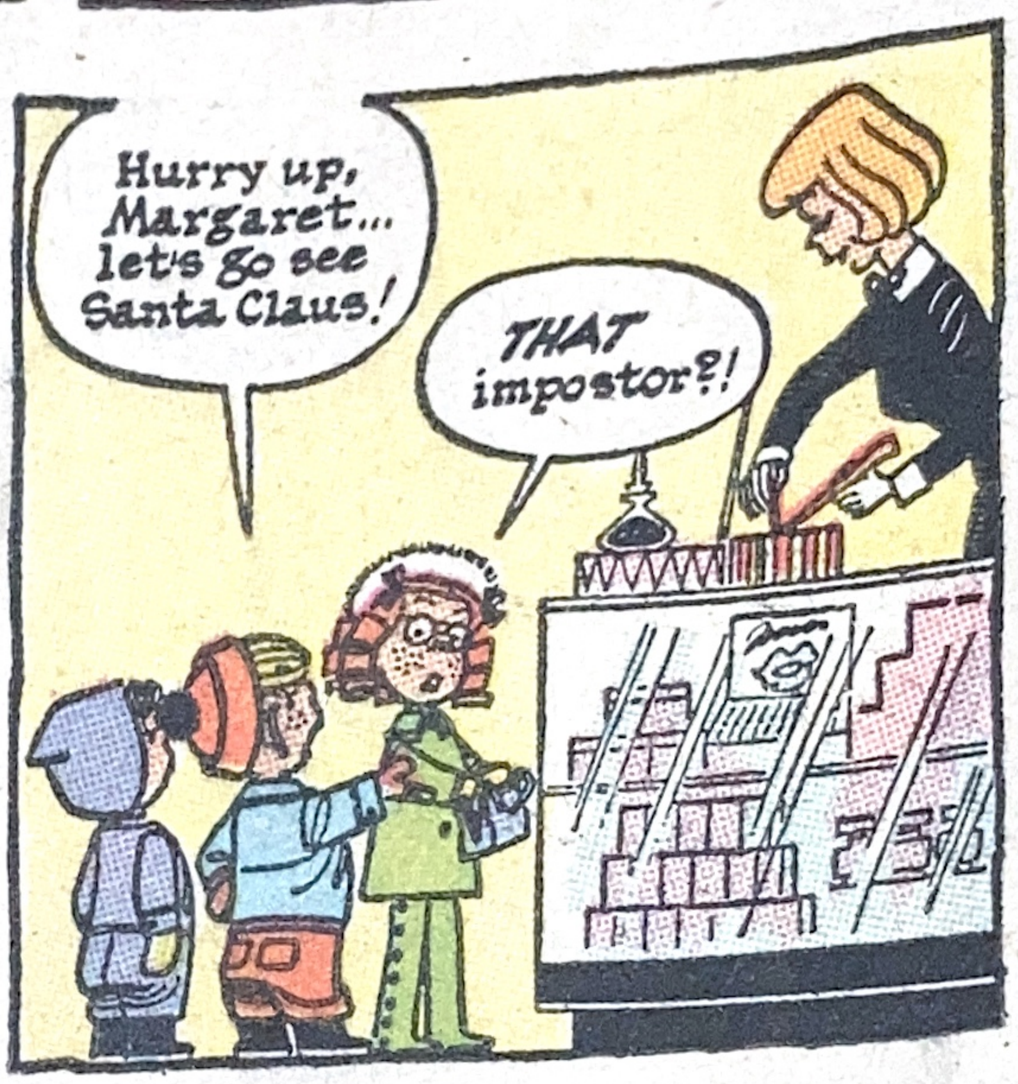

What are ya gonna get for your Mom, Margaret?
I haven't QUITE decided.


Oh! THAT would be nice! Bath powder!
BATH stuff isn't no PRESENT!
Quith Tinkle by Kim
Aux Madame
BATH POWDER


Smell how AWFUL this stuff smells, Joey!
SNIFF! SNIFF!

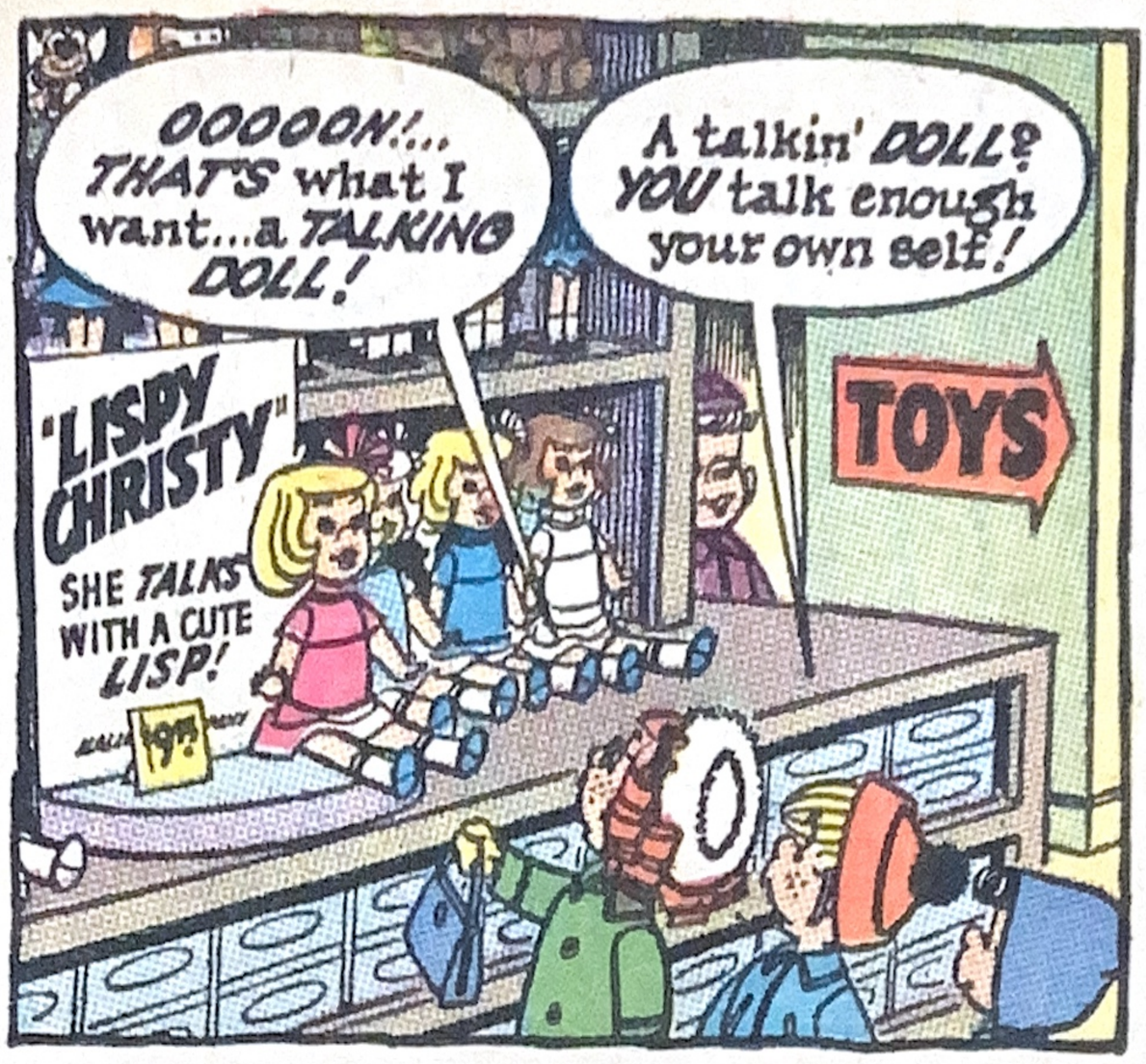
ACHOO!!

Please gift-wrap it... what's LEFT of it!
That stuff MADE him sneeze, it smells so awful!


Hurry up, Margaret... let's go see Santa Claus!
THAT impostor?!

No... Santa Claus!
That's what I mean! That man who CALLS himself Santa Claus is an IMPOSTOR!

WE like him, too... huh, Joey?
YETH!
Oh, YOU...!
UP


OOOOON!... THAT'S what I want...a TALKING DOLL!
A talkin' DOLL? YOU talk enough your own self!
"LISPY CHRISTY"
SHE TALKS WITH A CUTE LISP!
TOYS

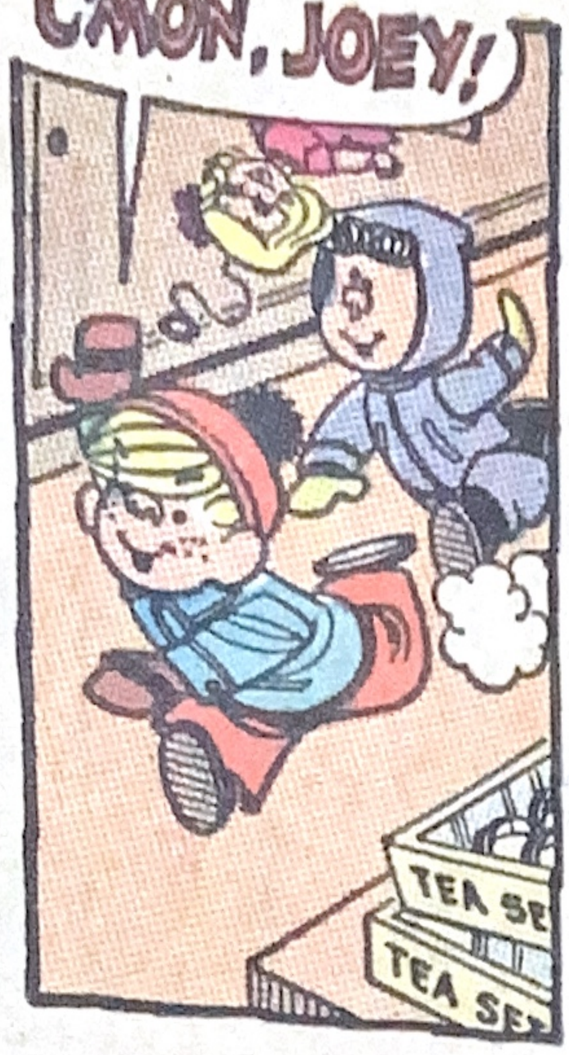
Is THAT so? Then I won't let you hear my doll TALK!
Aw..C'mon, Margaret... I was just KIDDIN' ya!

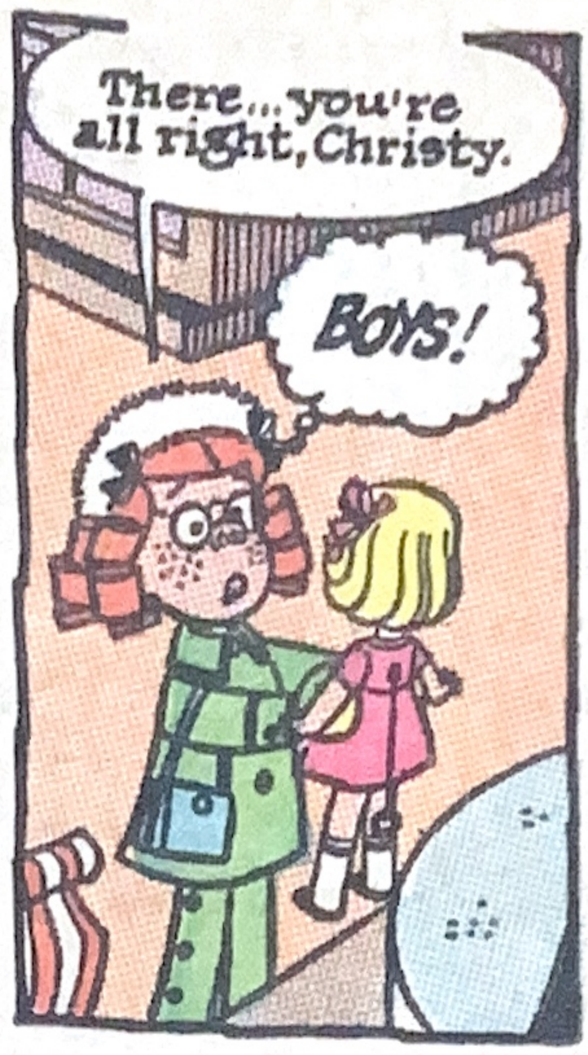
My name ith Chrith... what's yourth?
UH...DENNIS.
I'm JOEY!

HA HA HA HA!

YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO A STUPID OL' DOLL, JOEY!
YOU DID!

THERE'S SANTA CLAUS!
DENNIS!!
Let's play houthe!


C'MON, JOEY!
TEA SE
TEA SE


There... you're all right, Christy.
BOYS!

HO HO HO HO!
Go ahead, Joey... he won't hurt ya!
Why's he LAUGHIN' at me for?

What would you like for Christmas, sonny?
A wite on.

A wite on? You mean something you can WRITE on, like a blackboard?
NO! A WITE ON!
He don't talk so good!

Ya want somethin' ya can RIDE on, like a horsie?
?
NO! A WITE ON!

I WANT A WITE ON ALL NIGHT SO I DON'T BE SCARED!

Er... I'll see what I can do about that.

And what would YOU like?
TEXAS!

You mean something FROM Texas... like a cowboy hat?
NO! I wanna go TO Texas!

Anytime after Christmas! By JET!
Uh-huh.
BROTHER! What a pair THEY are!

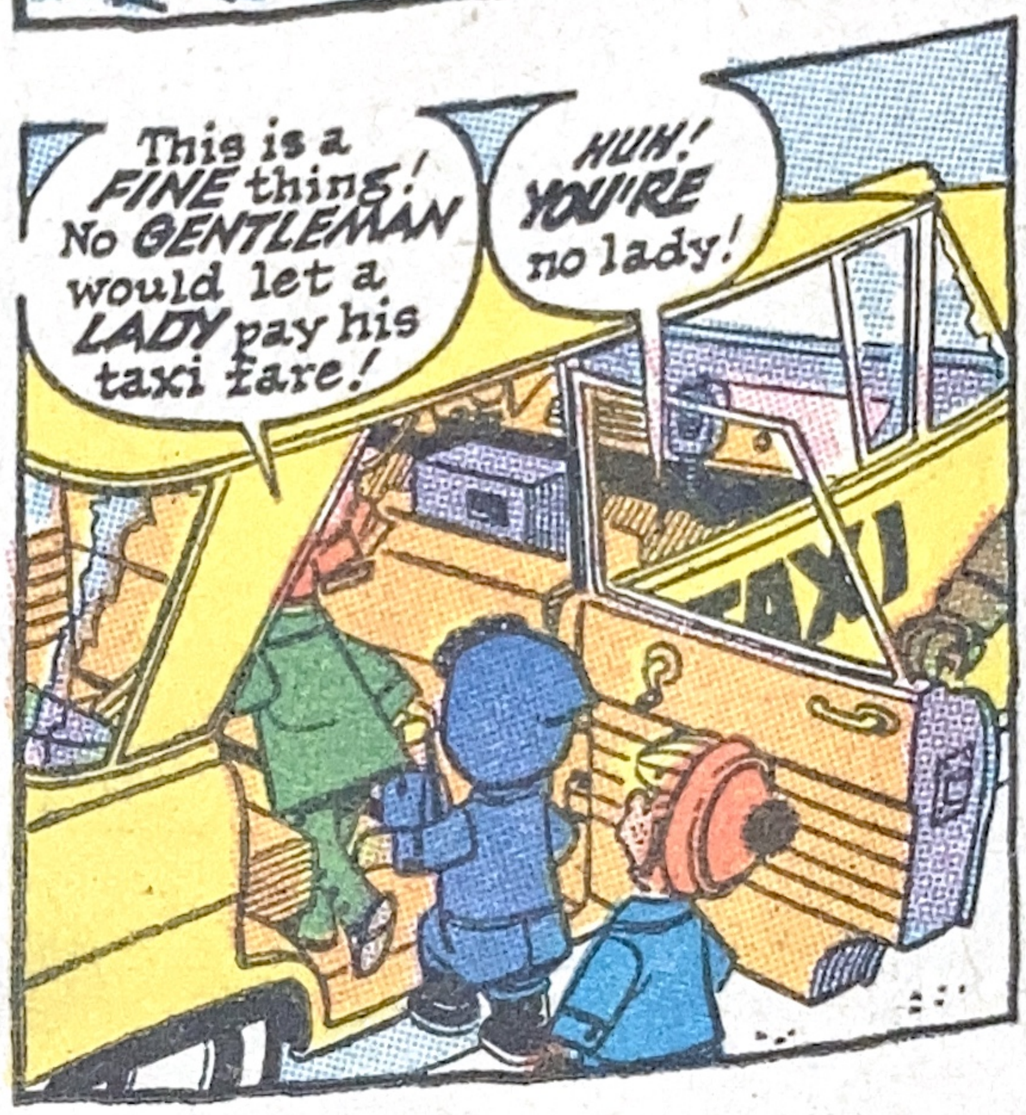
Oh, little girl! YOU there! Don't you want to talk to Santa?
CERTAINLY NOT!

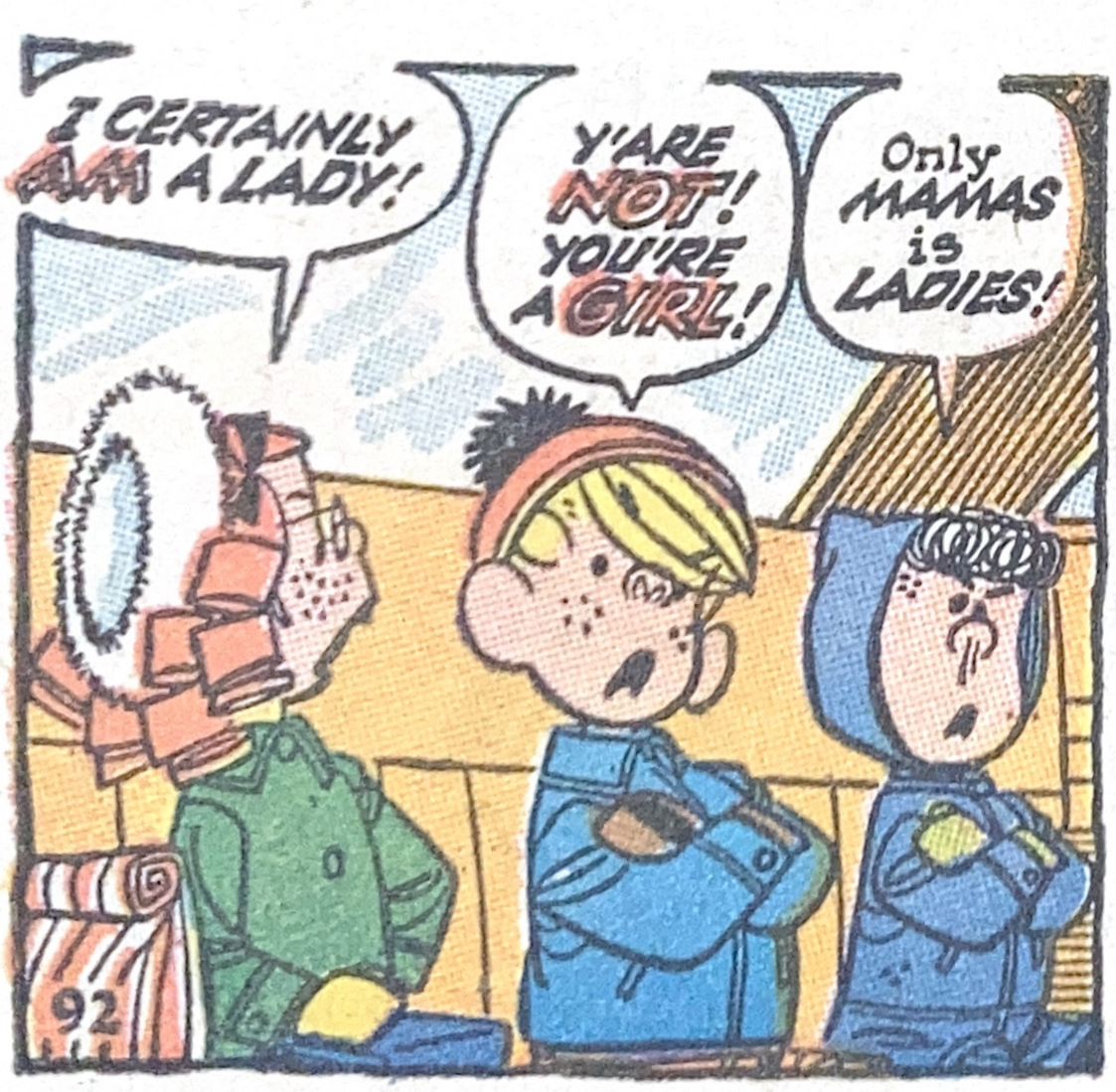
HER NAME'S MARGARET WADE! SHE LIVES DOWN THE STREET FROM ME! AN' DON'T BRING HER NOTHIN'!

So THAT'S the thanks I get for letting you ride in MY taxi!
What's the diff? Ya don't b'lieve in Santa Claus anyways!

TAXI! TAXI! OH, DEAR!
I'LL get us one!
Slater

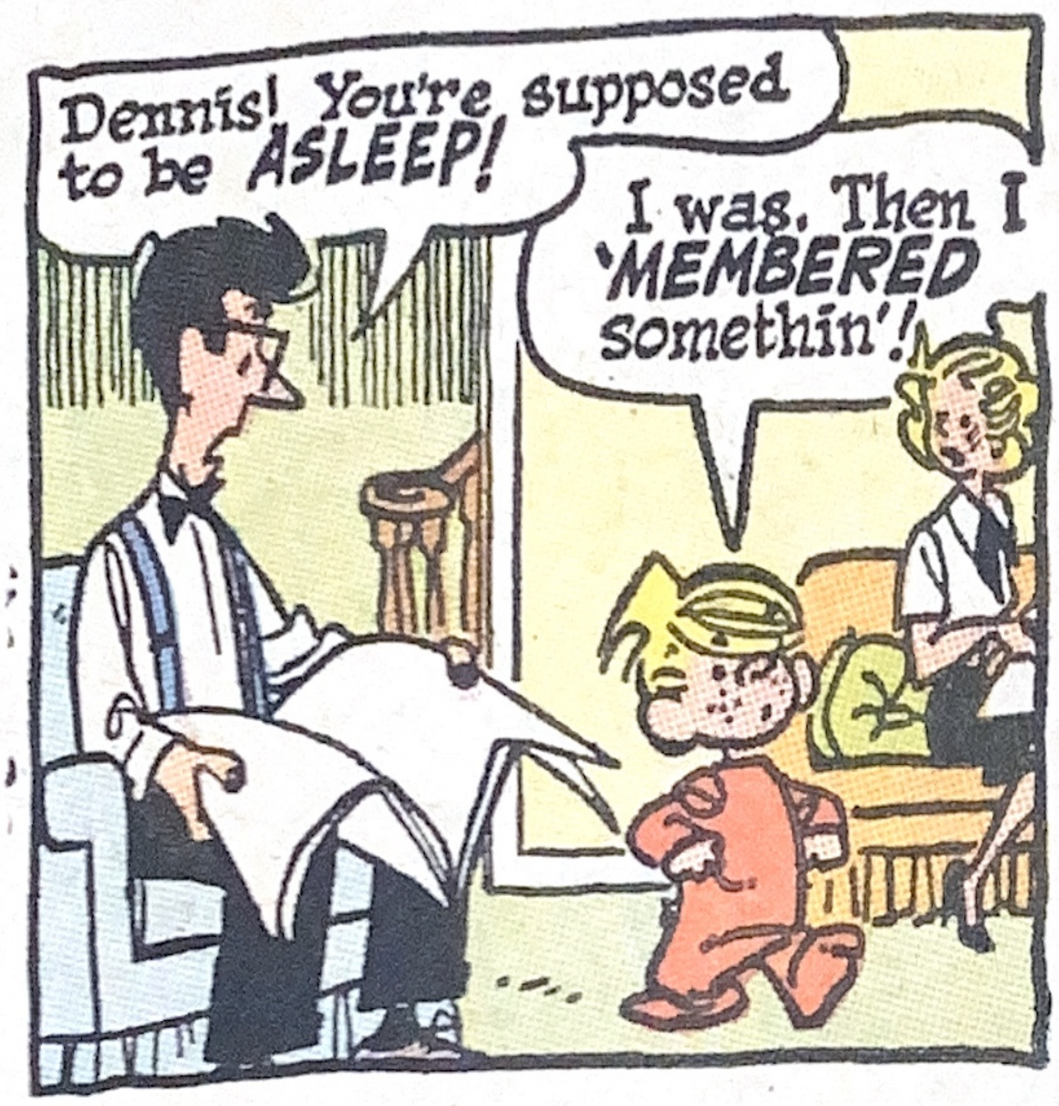
TWEEEEEE!!


This is a FINE thing! No GENTLEMAN would let a LADY pay his taxi fare!
HUH! YOU'RE no lady!
TAXI

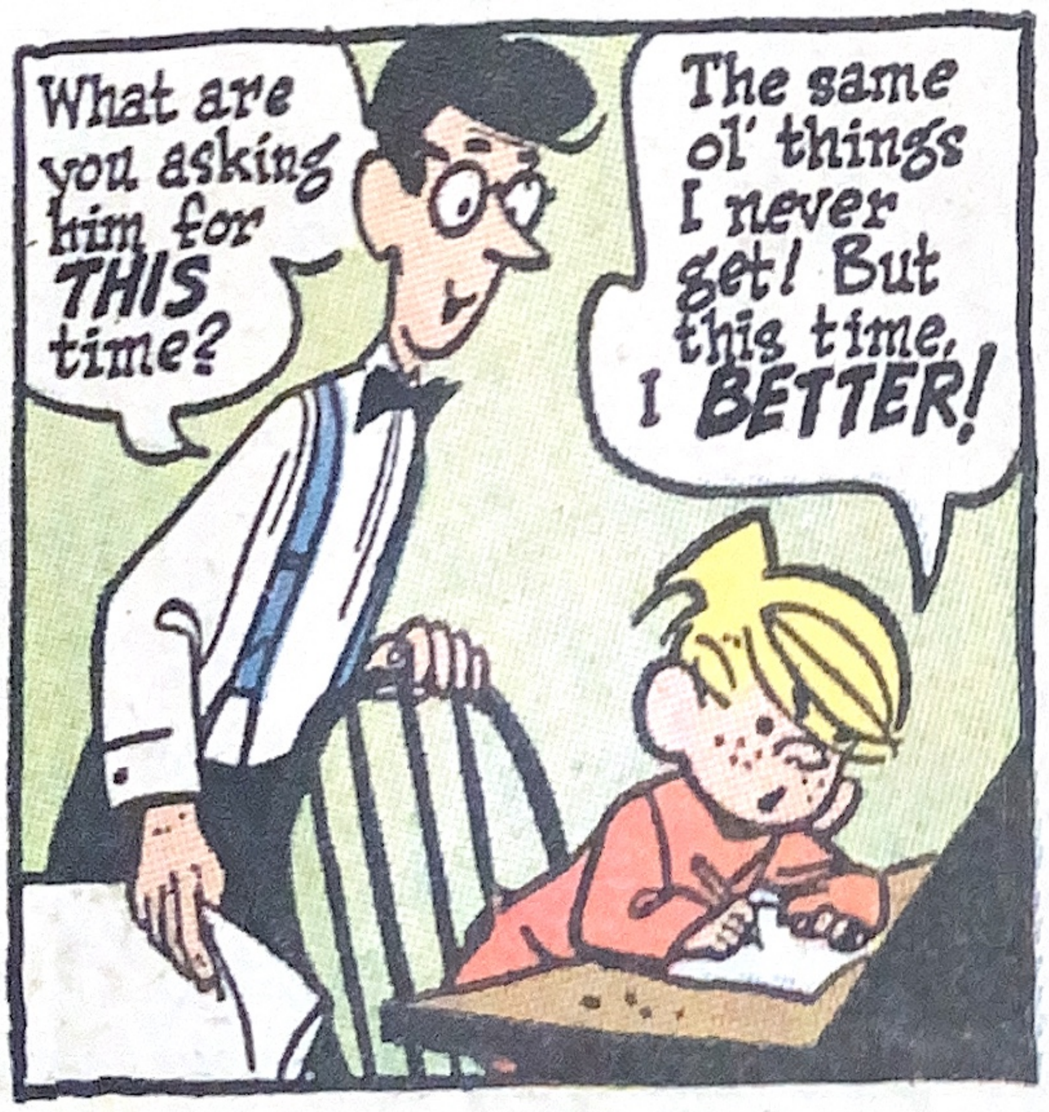

I CERTAINLY AM A LADY!
Y'ARE NOT! YOU'RE A GIRL!
Only MAMAS is LADIES!

AND ONLY BOYS ARE PESTS!
Back to the ol' snowman, huh, Joey?
Yeth!
END

I'M DREAMING OF A NICE CHRISTMAS


Dennis! You're supposed to be ASLEEP!
I was. Then I 'MEMBERED somethin'!

I almost forgot to write my letter to Santa!
At THIS hour?
Oh... let him get it over with!

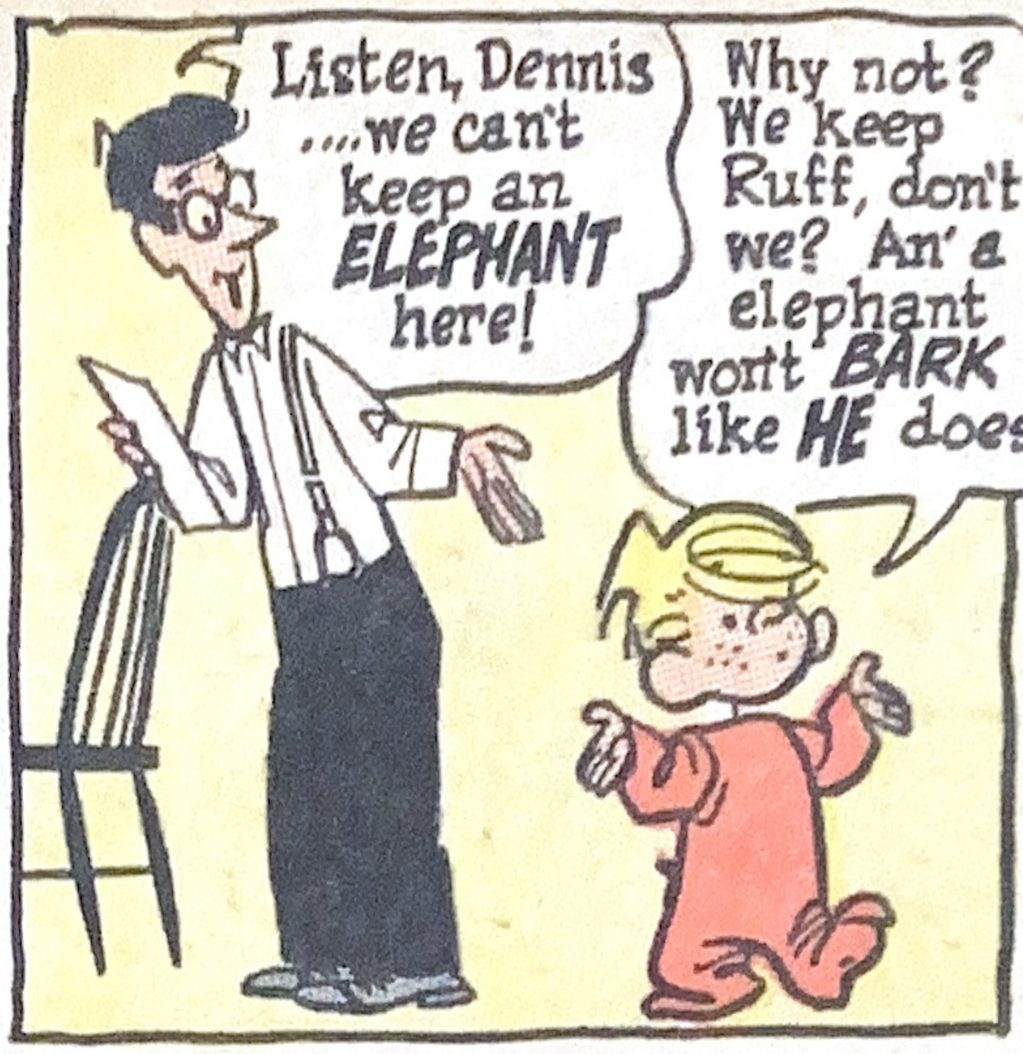

What are you asking him for THIS time?
The same ol' things I never get! But this time, I BETTER!

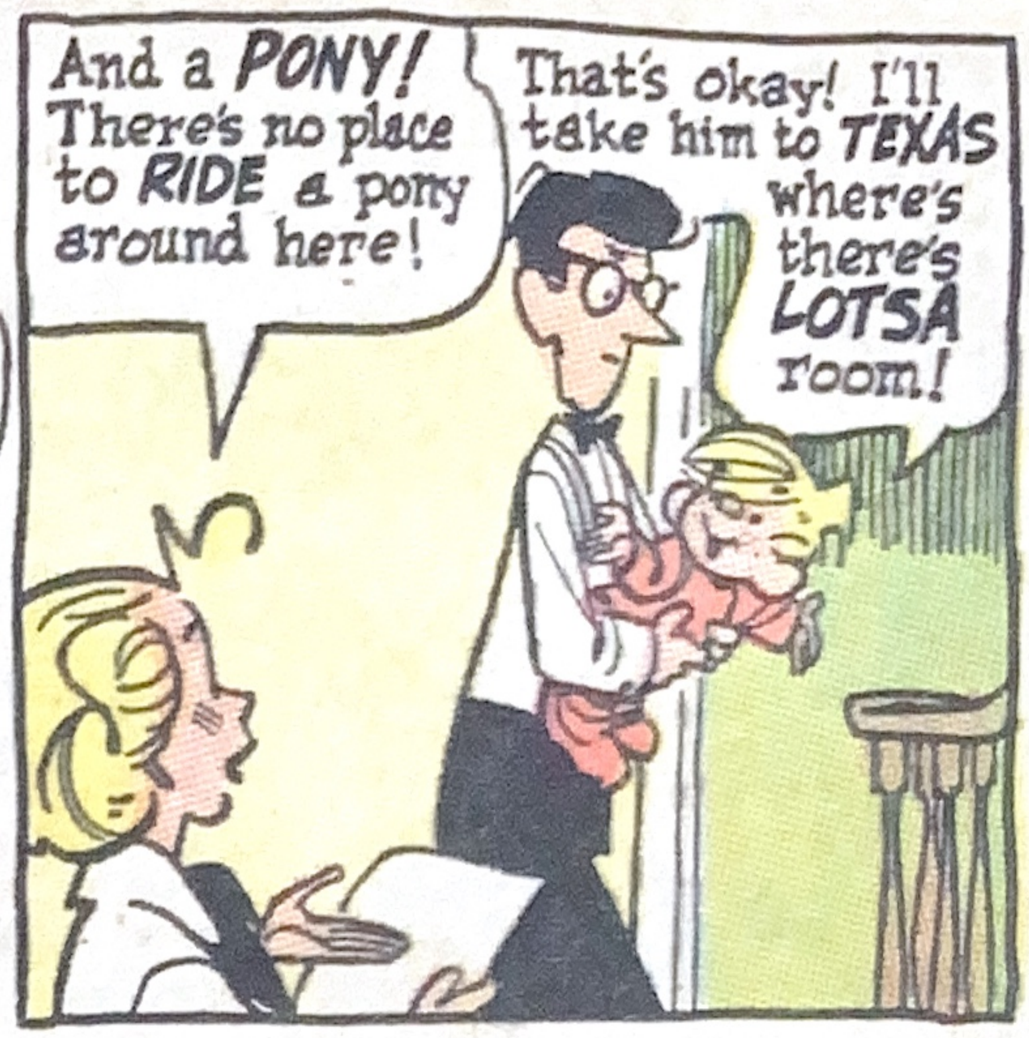
OH, NO!

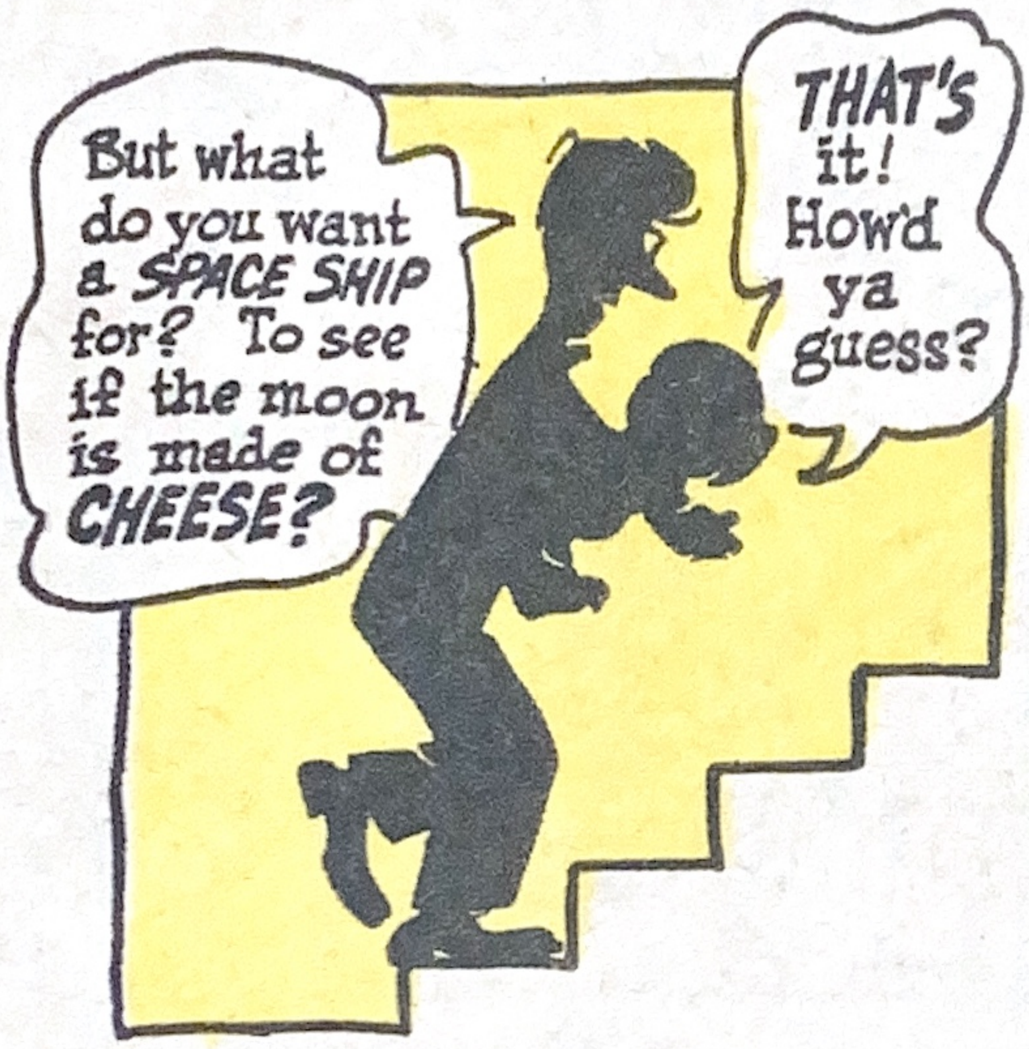
DEAR SANTA.
~~DARLIN'~~ OOPS! I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN THAT! BUT EVRY YEAR I ASK YOU FOR A ELEFFANT AN A SPACE SHIP AN' A PONY AN' A SUMMEREEN AN' YOU NEVER **BRING** EM. SO THIS TIME PLEASE BRING EM! **PLEASE!!!!** XXX

(FOR I MIGHT REALLY SAY THIS!) BUT I WON'T, CAUSE YA WILL — BRING ÈM! I MEAN.

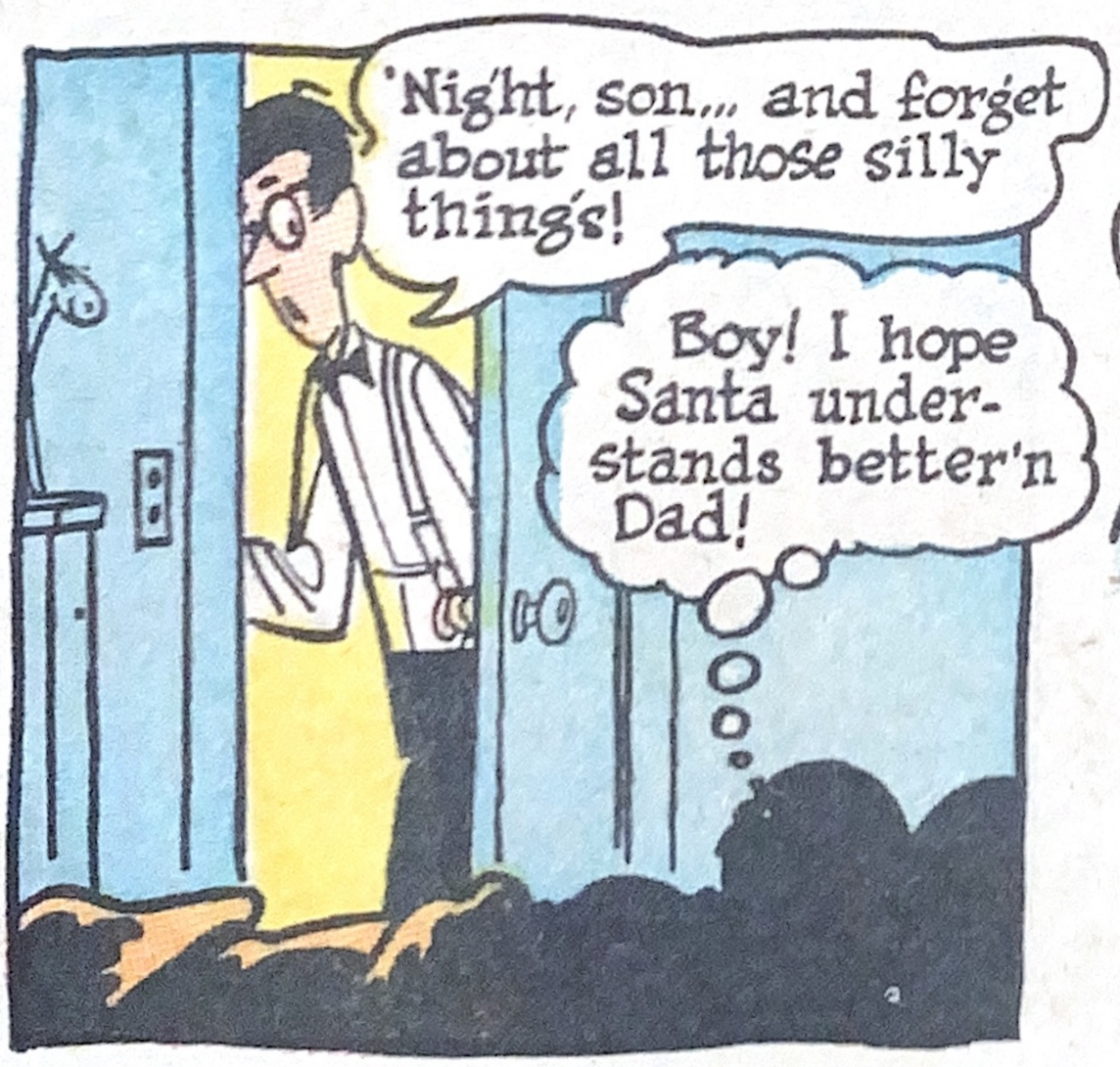
DENNIS


Listen, Dennis ....we can't keep an ELEPHANT here!
Why not? We keep Ruff, don't we? An' a elephant won't BARK like HE does!


And a PONY! There's no place to RIDE a pony around here!
That's okay! I'll take him to TEXAS where's there's LOTSA room!


But what do you want a SPACE SHIP for? To see if the moon is made of CHEESE?
THAT'S it! How'd ya guess?

All those things are IMPOSSIBLE, son! Where would you use a SUBMARINE... in the BATH-TUB?
Sure! Then I could take a bath without gettin' WET!


'Night, son... and forget about all those silly things!
Boy! I hope Santa understands better'n Dad!

Sure wish I could TALK to Santa 'stead of WRITIN' to him. Then he'd know I NEED a pony an' a space ship an'.....
ZZZZZZ

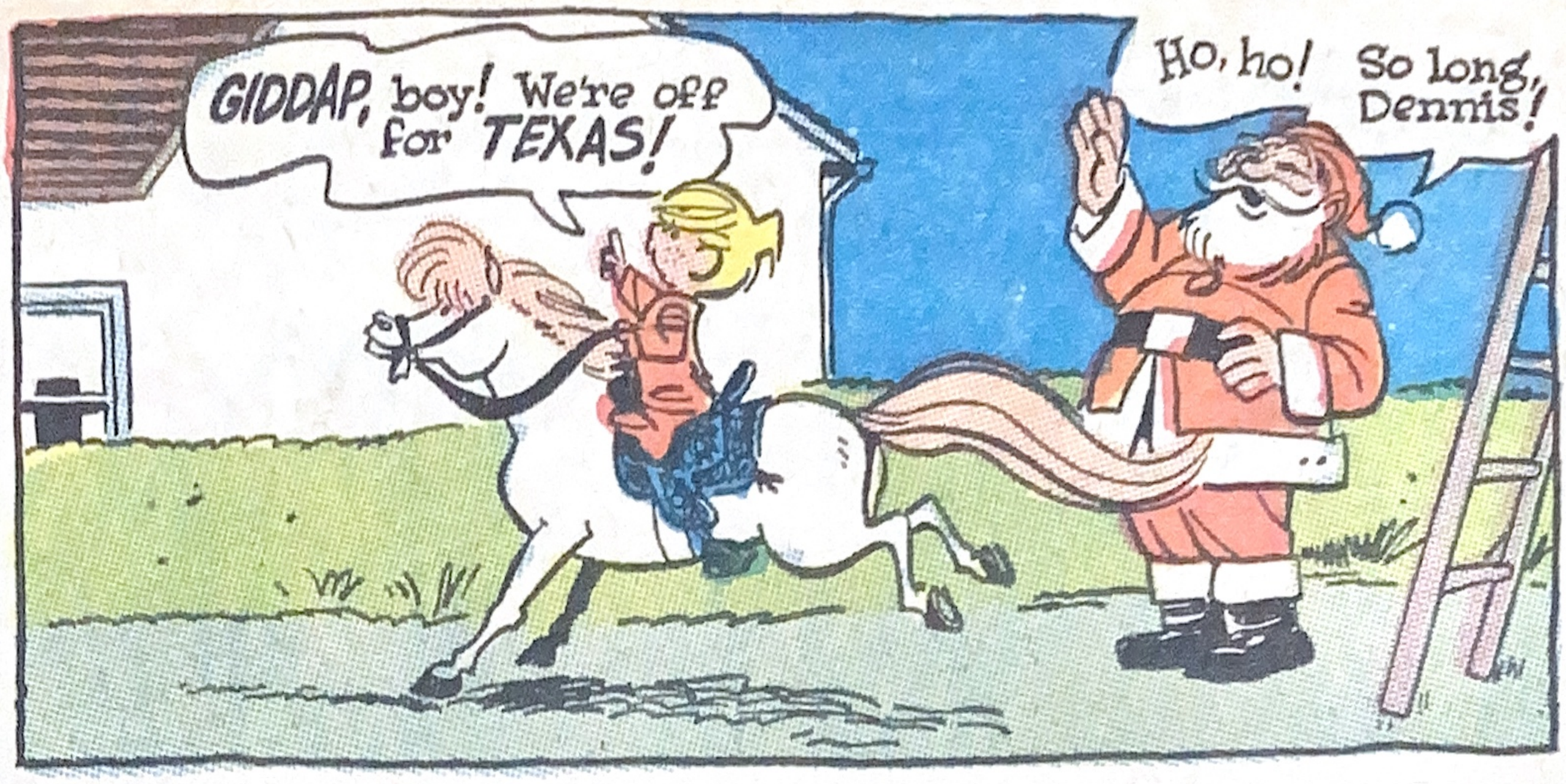
SANTA!
Ho, ho! Hello, Dennis! I heard you want to TALK to me about something!

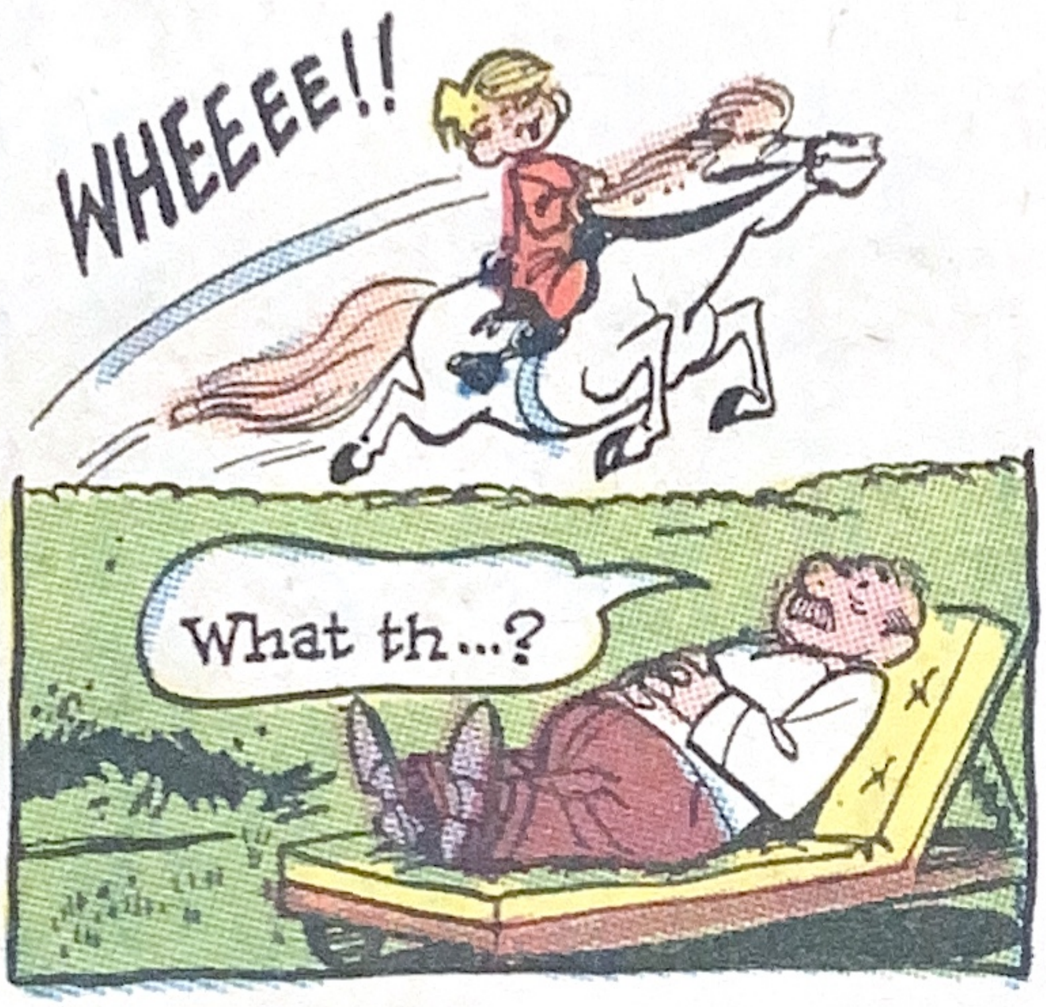
Yeah! Every year I write to you for a pony, an' a space ship, an' a elephant an' a summereen... an' I never GET 'em!
I know... I know!

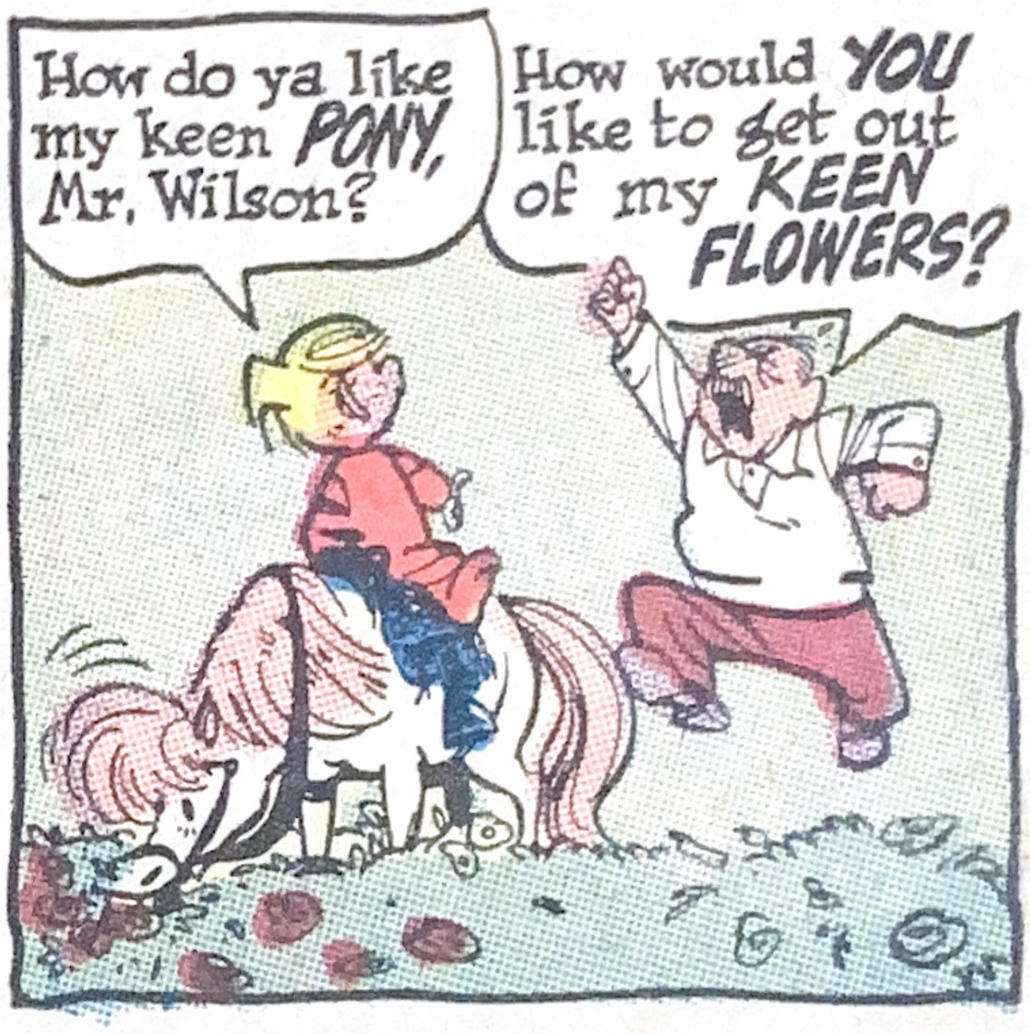
That's because they're not PRACTICAL, Dennis!
How do we know if we don't TRY? C'mon, Santa ....be a sport!

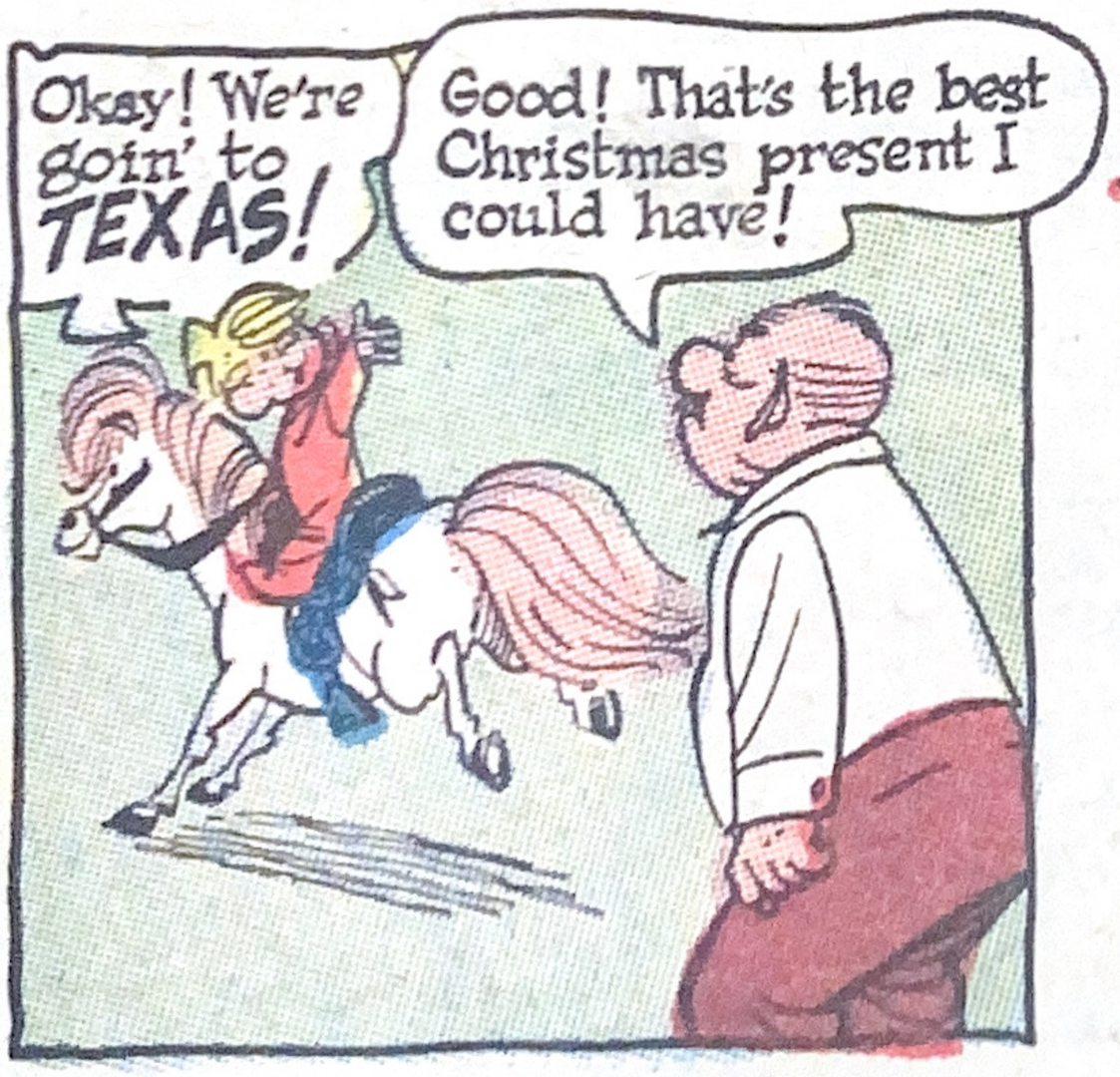
I THOUGHT I'd have to convince you. That's why I brought you...

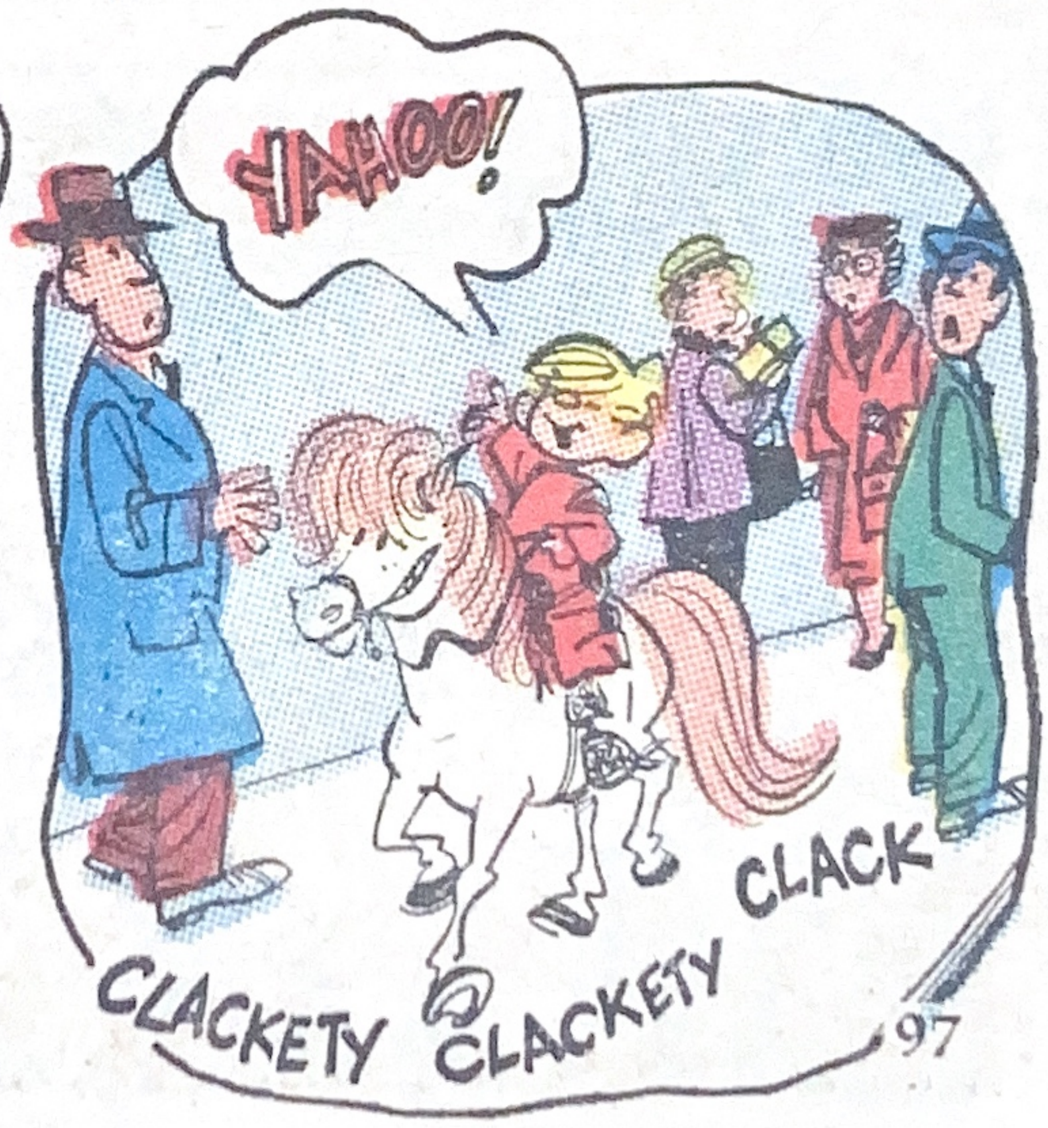
...a pony!
OBOY!


GIDDAP, boy! We're off for TEXAS!
Ho, ho! So long, Dennis!


WHEEEE!!
What th...?


How do ya like my keen PONY, Mr. Wilson?
How would YOU like to get out of my KEEN FLOWERS?

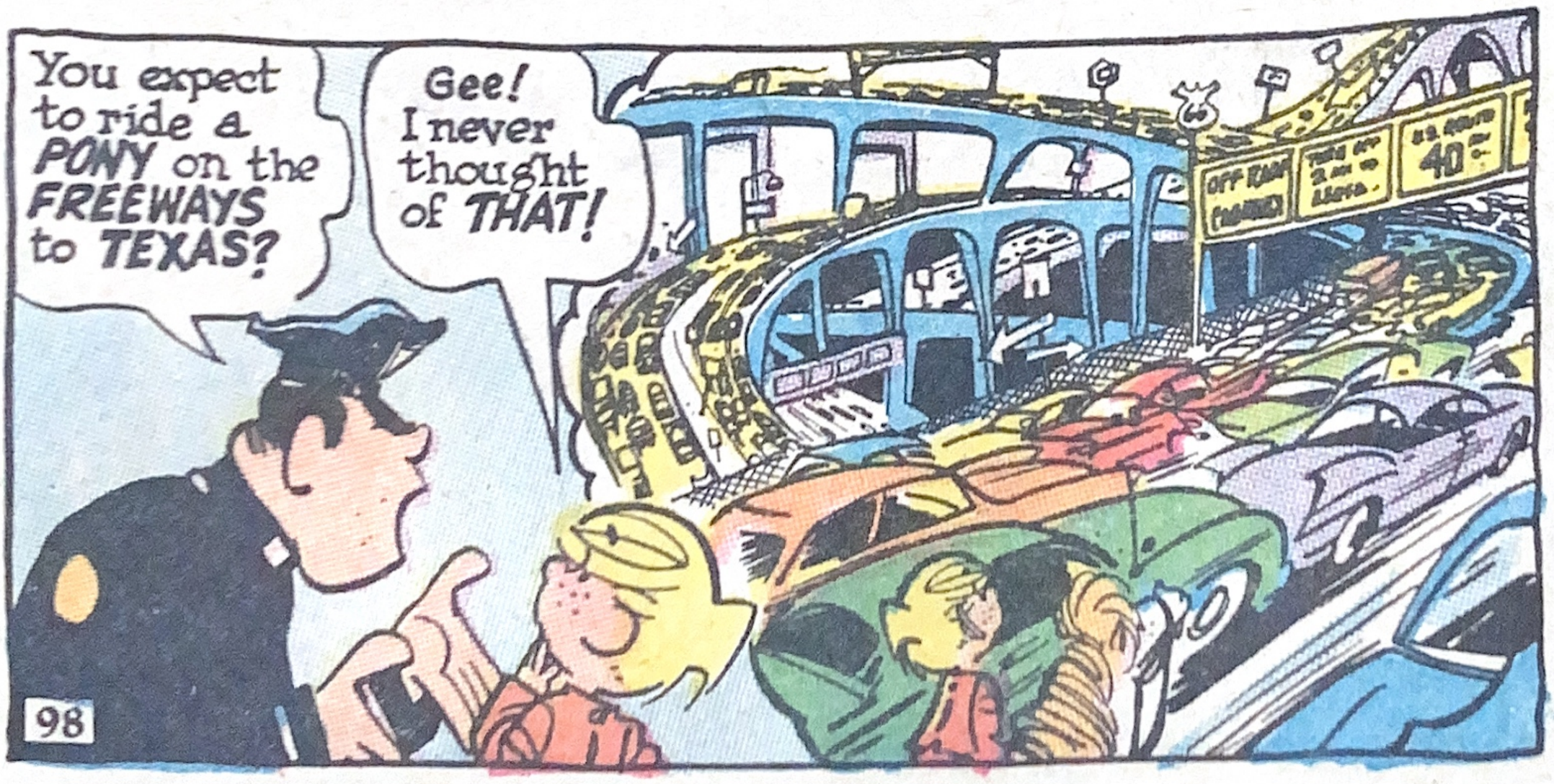

Okay! We're goin' to TEXAS!
Good! That's the best Christmas present I could have!

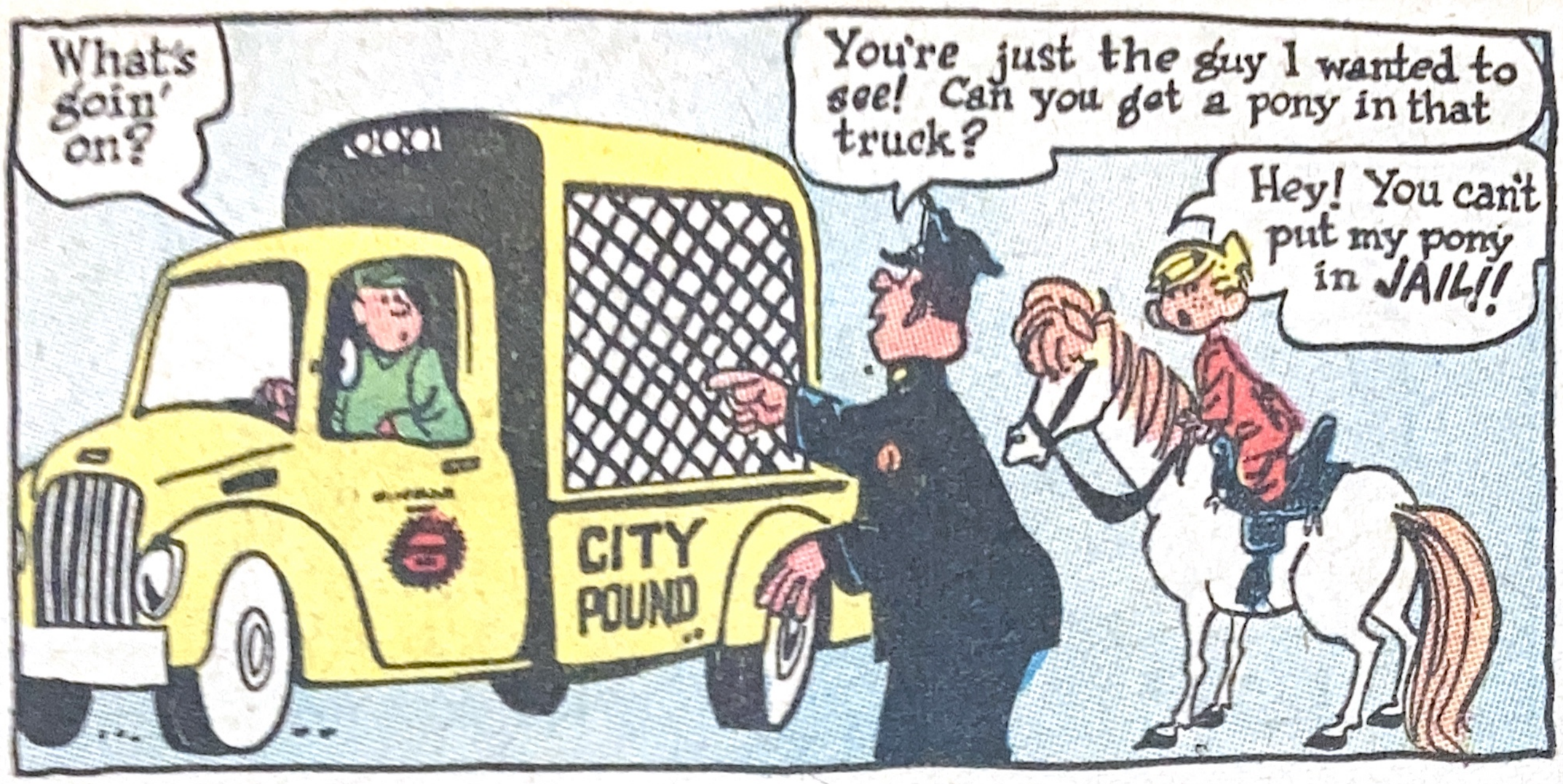

YAHOO!
CLACKETY CLACKETY CLACK

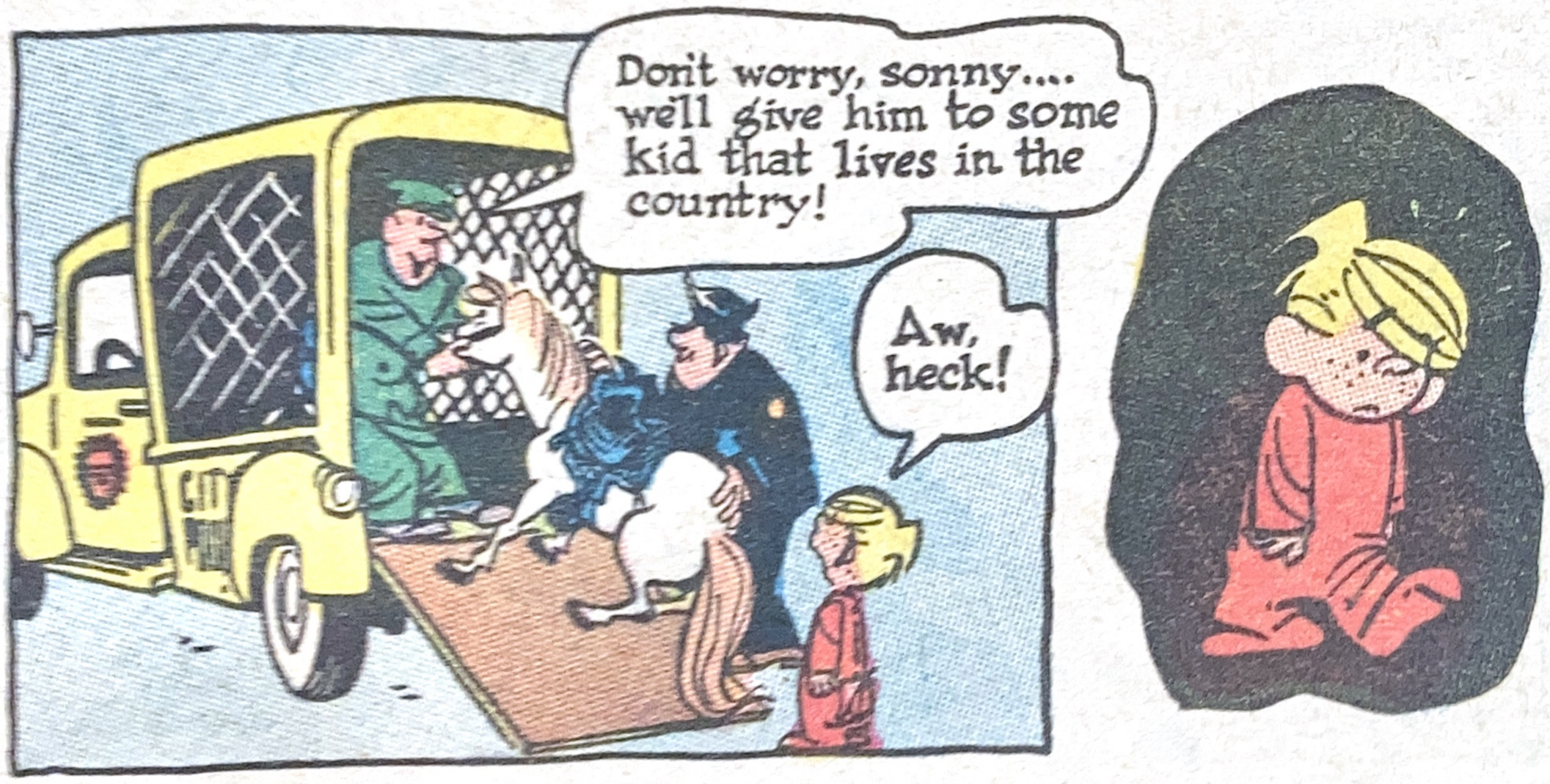
TWEEEEEEE....!!!
Huh?

Don't you know it's against the law to ride a HORSE in the city streets!
He's not a horse.. he's just a PONY!

But it's okay! We're goin' to TEXAS!
TEXAS?!


You expect to ride a PONY on the FREEWAYS to TEXAS?
Gee! I never thought of THAT!


What's goin' on?
You're just the guy I wanted to see! Can you get a pony in that truck?
Hey! You can't put my pony in JAIL!!
CITY POUND


Don't worry, sonny.... we'll give him to some kid that lives in the country!
Aw, heck!

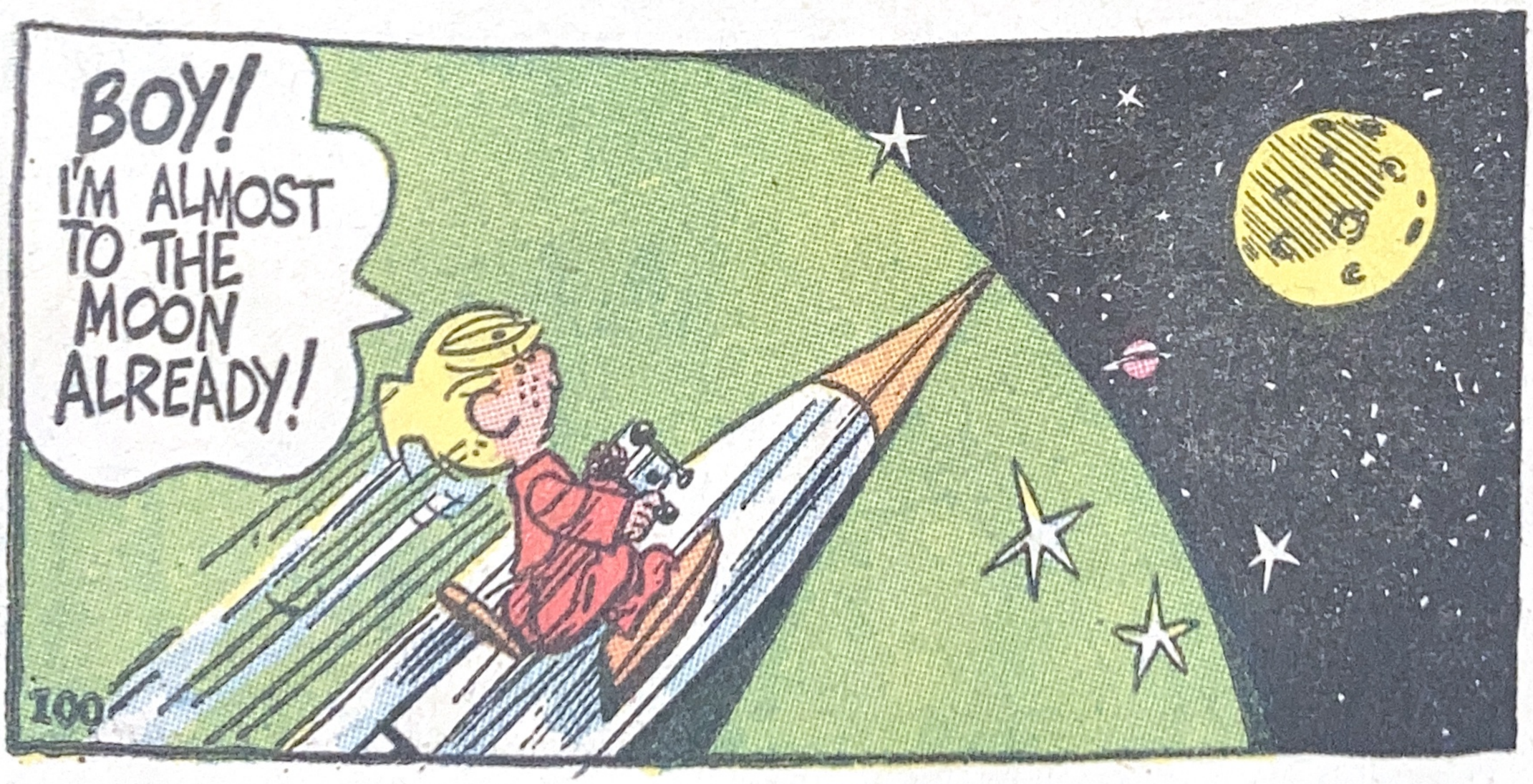
I guess you an' Dad were right about the pony, Santa
Of course! All those things you wanted are just OUT OF THIS WORLD!

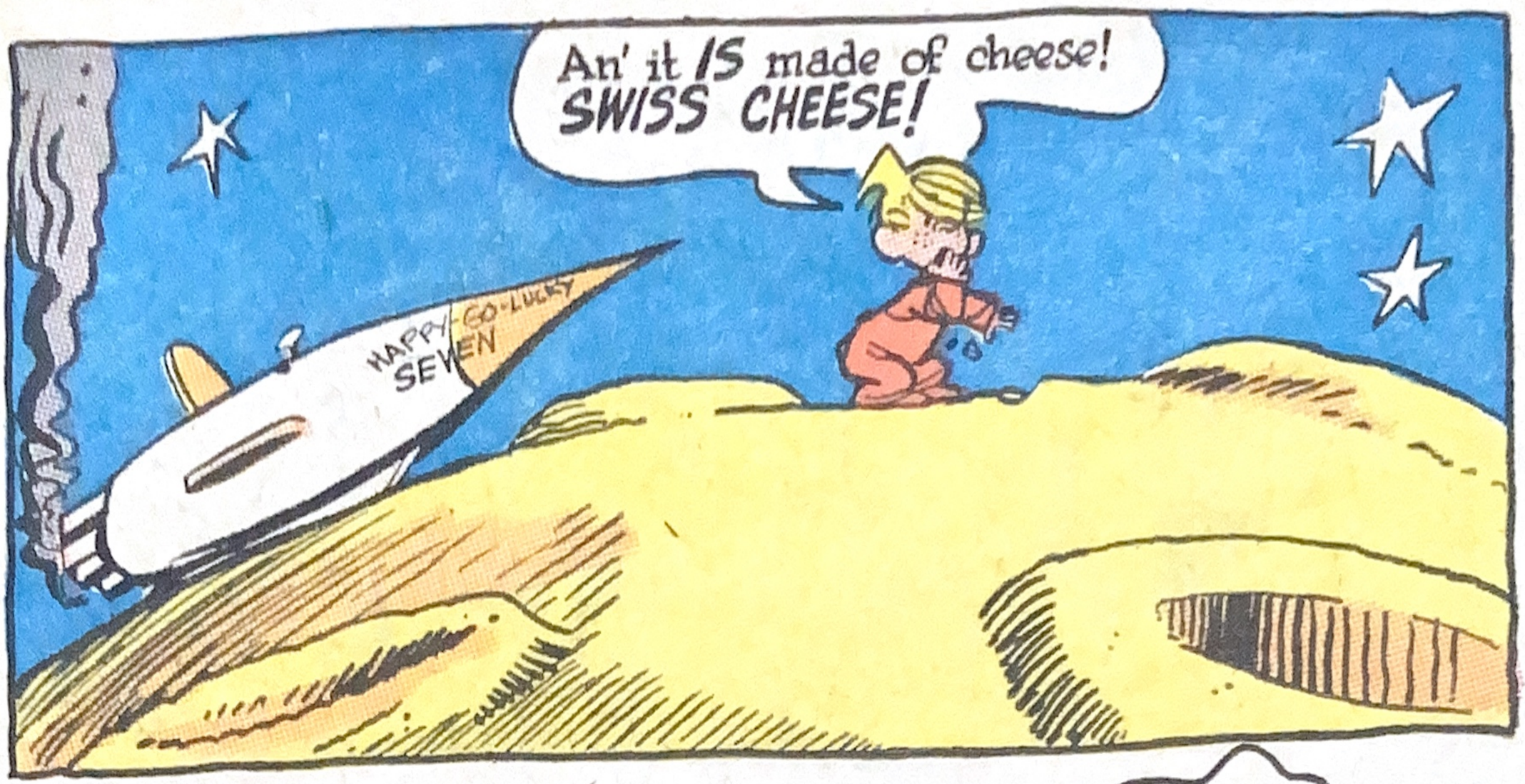
THAT'S it! OUTTA THIS WORLD! Let's try the SPACE SHIP!
OH, NO!

All right.... there it is!
WOW! Just my size!
HAPPY GO-LUCKY SEVEN

How do ya WORK it?
Just like an ELEVATOR... push this button to go UP, this one to go DOWN.
HAPPY GO-LUCKY SEVEN

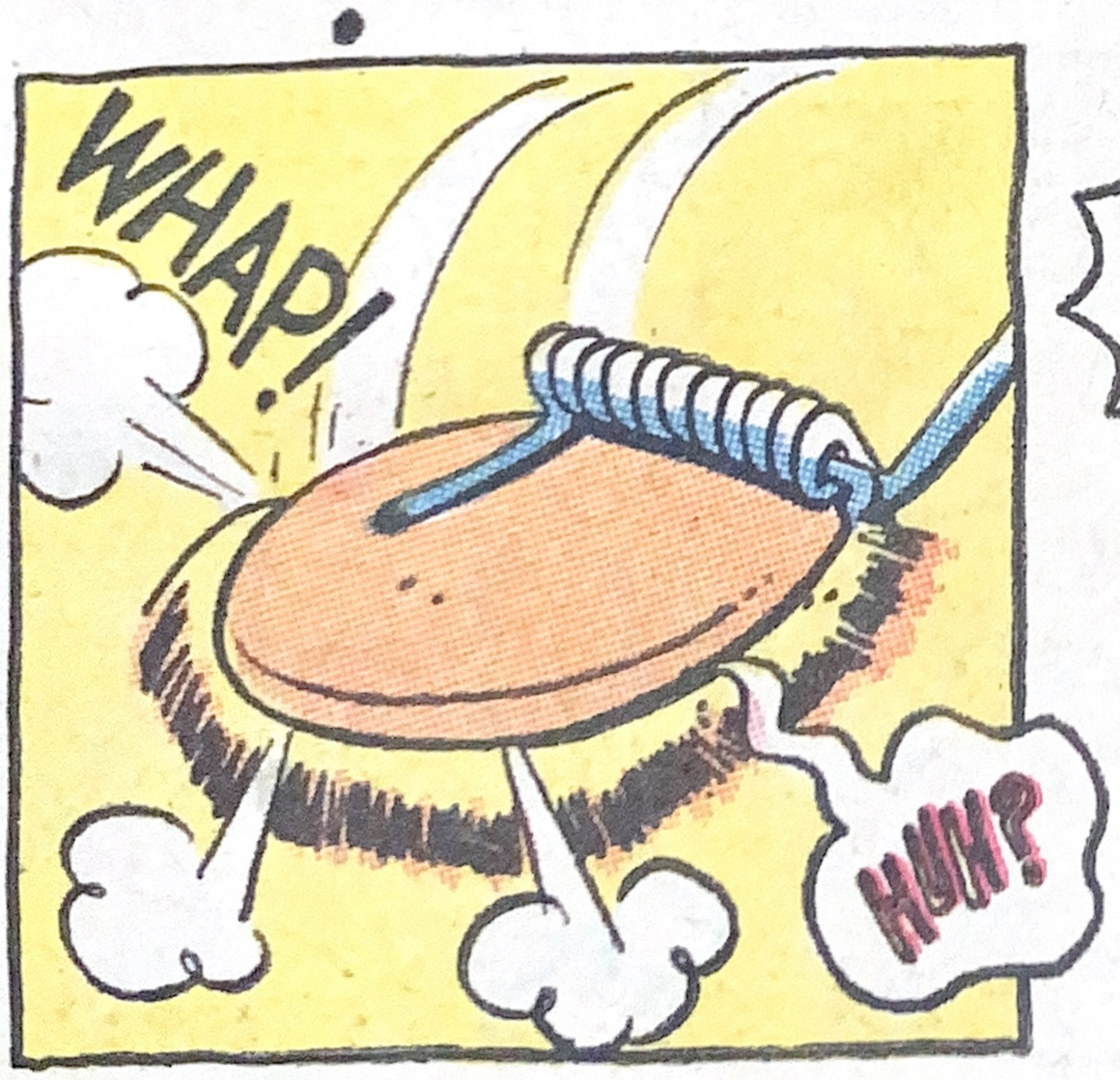
BLAST OFF!


BOY! I'M ALMOST TO THE MOON ALREADY!

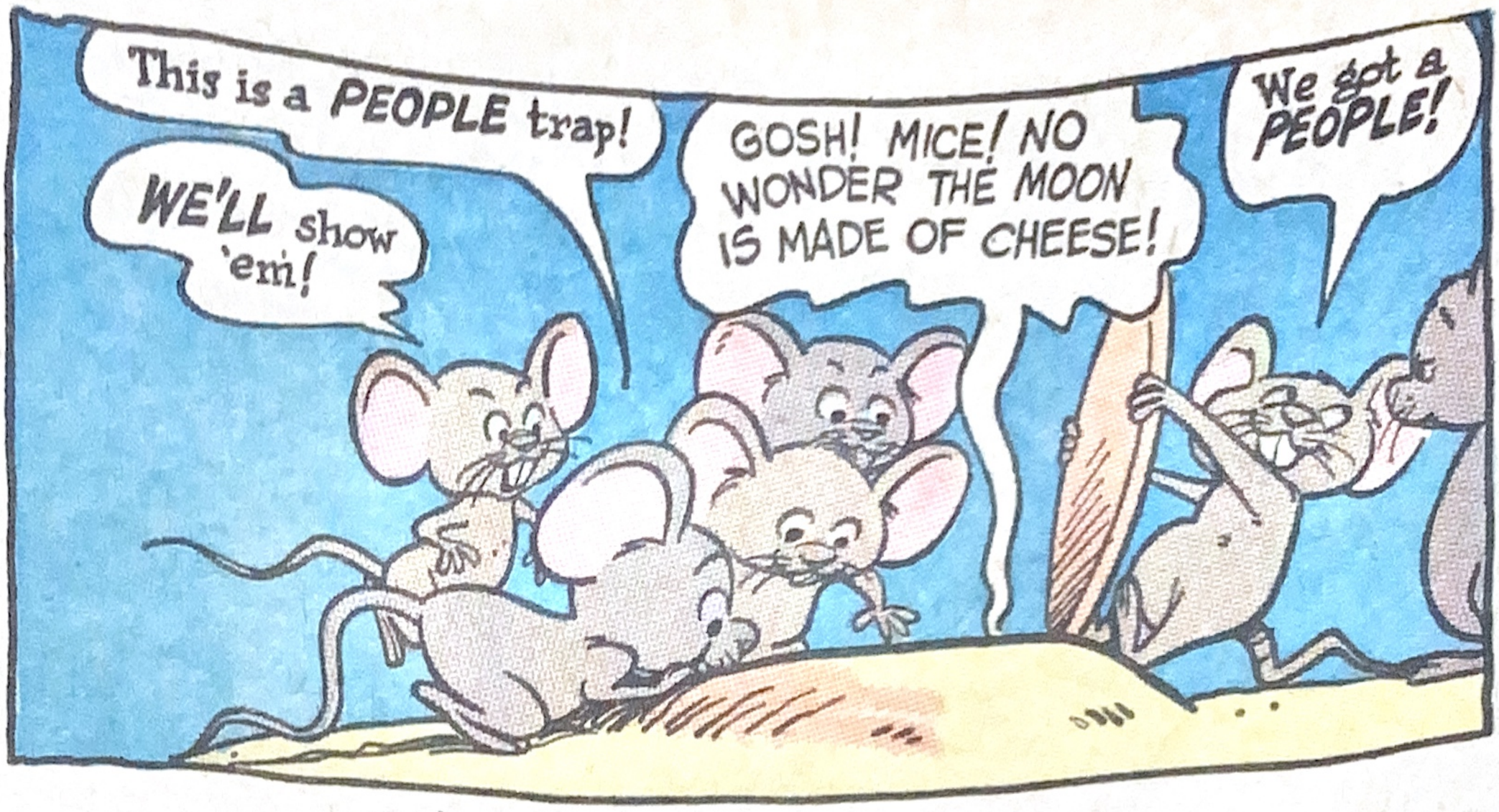

An' it IS made of cheese! SWISS CHEESE!
HAPPY-GO-LUCKY SEVEN

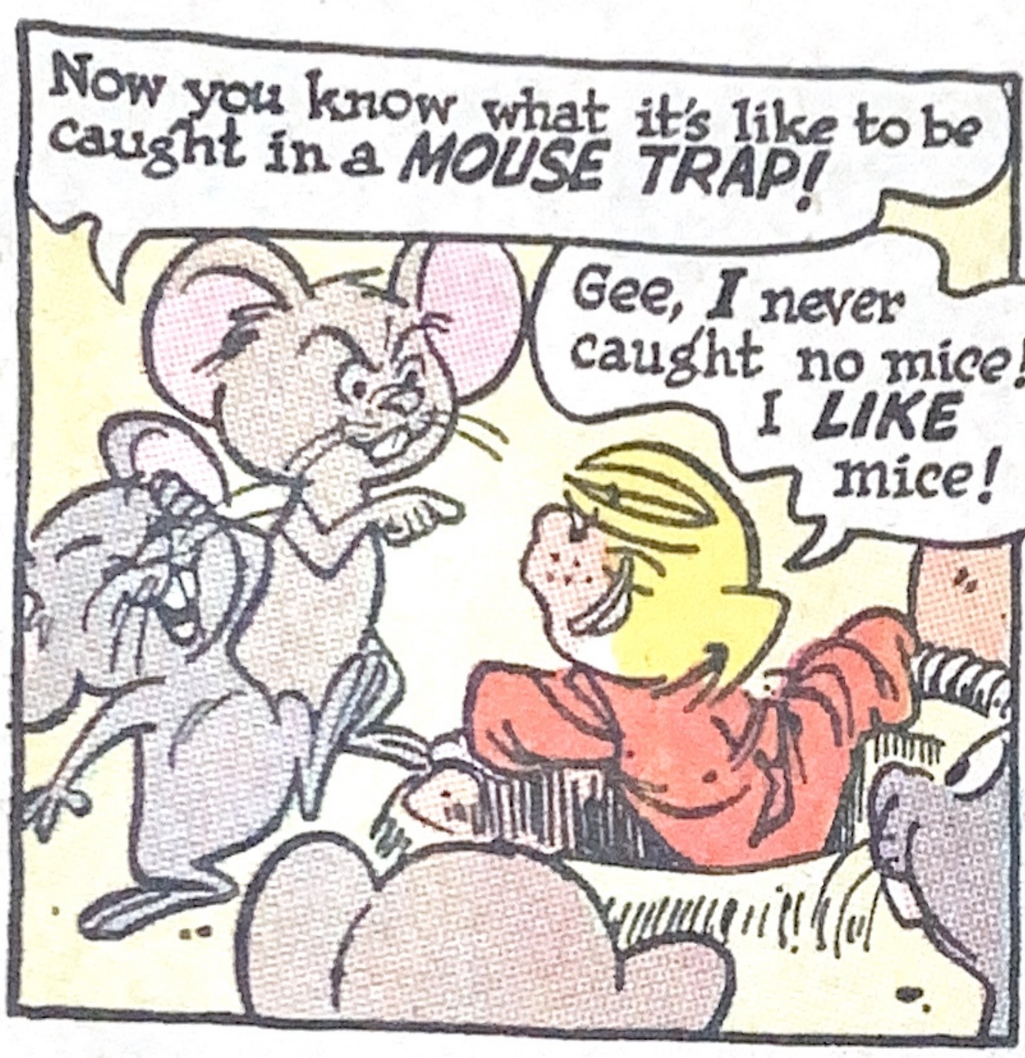
Wonder what's down these holes?

OOPS!

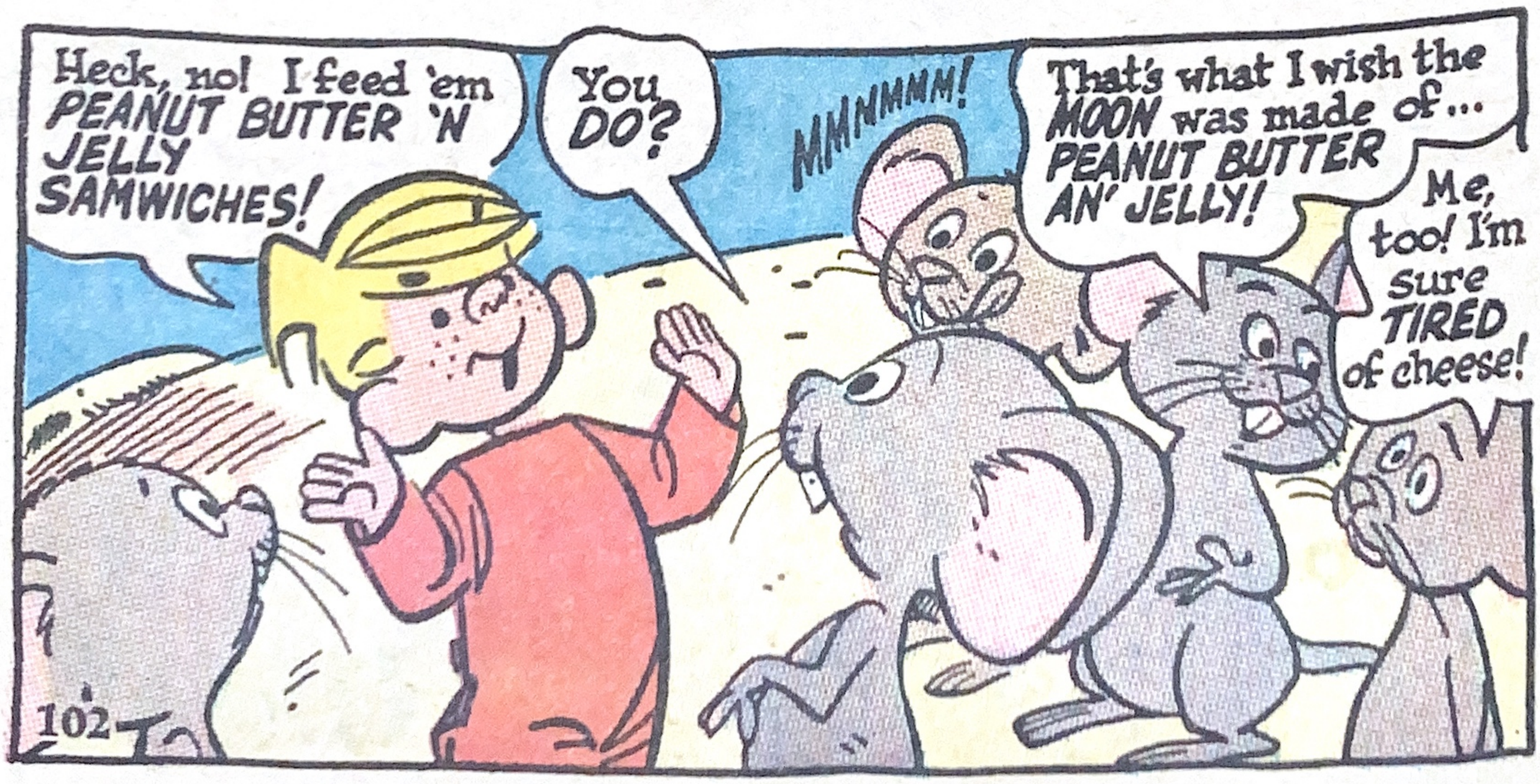

WHAP!
HUH?

HEY! WHAT IS THIS?
HO HO HA HA


This is a PEOPLE trap!
WE'LL show 'em!
GOSH! MICE! NO WONDER THE MOON IS MADE OF CHEESE!
We got a PEOPLE!

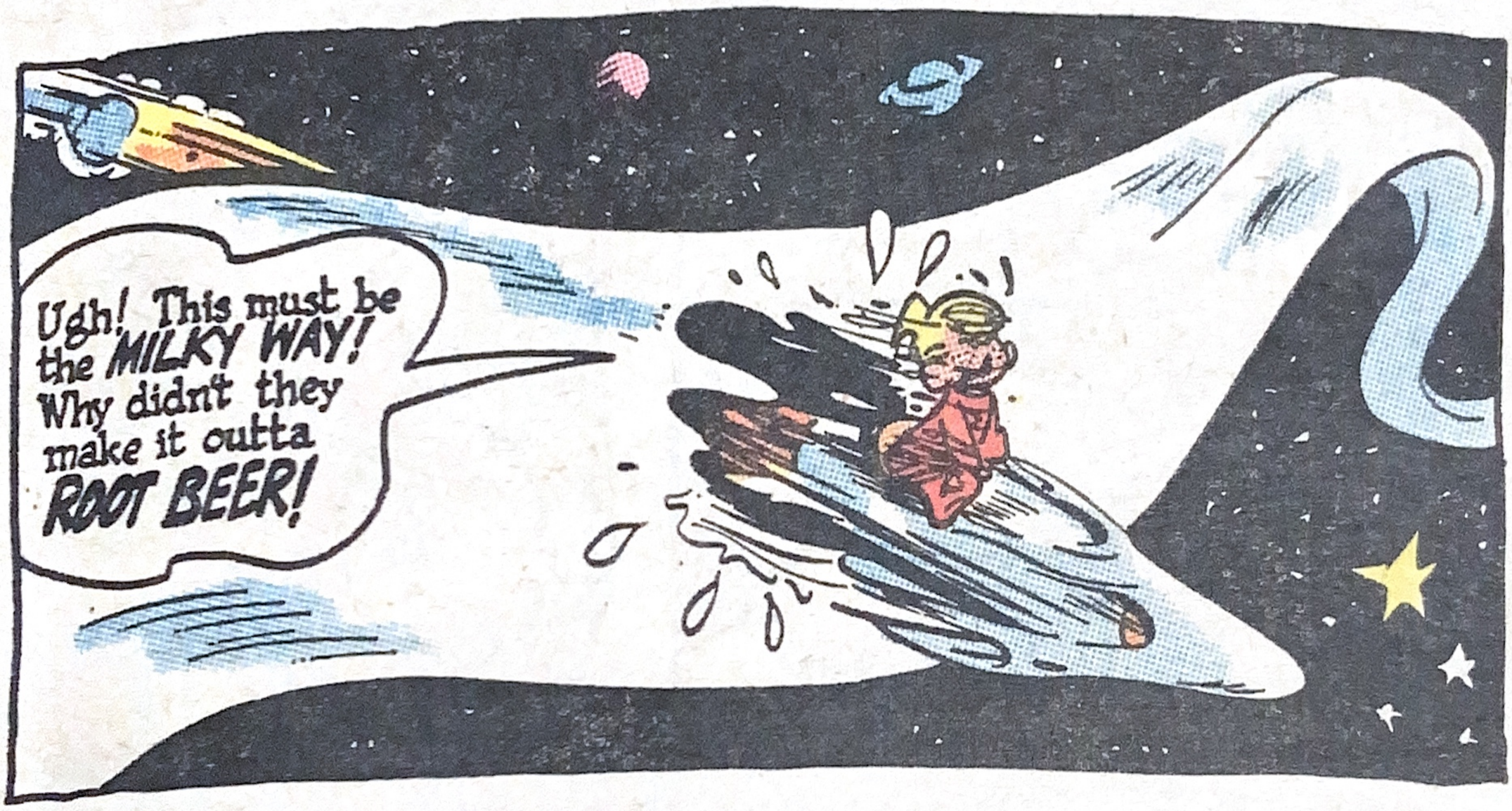

Now you know what it's like to be caught in a MOUSE TRAP!
Gee, I never caught no mice! I LIKE mice!

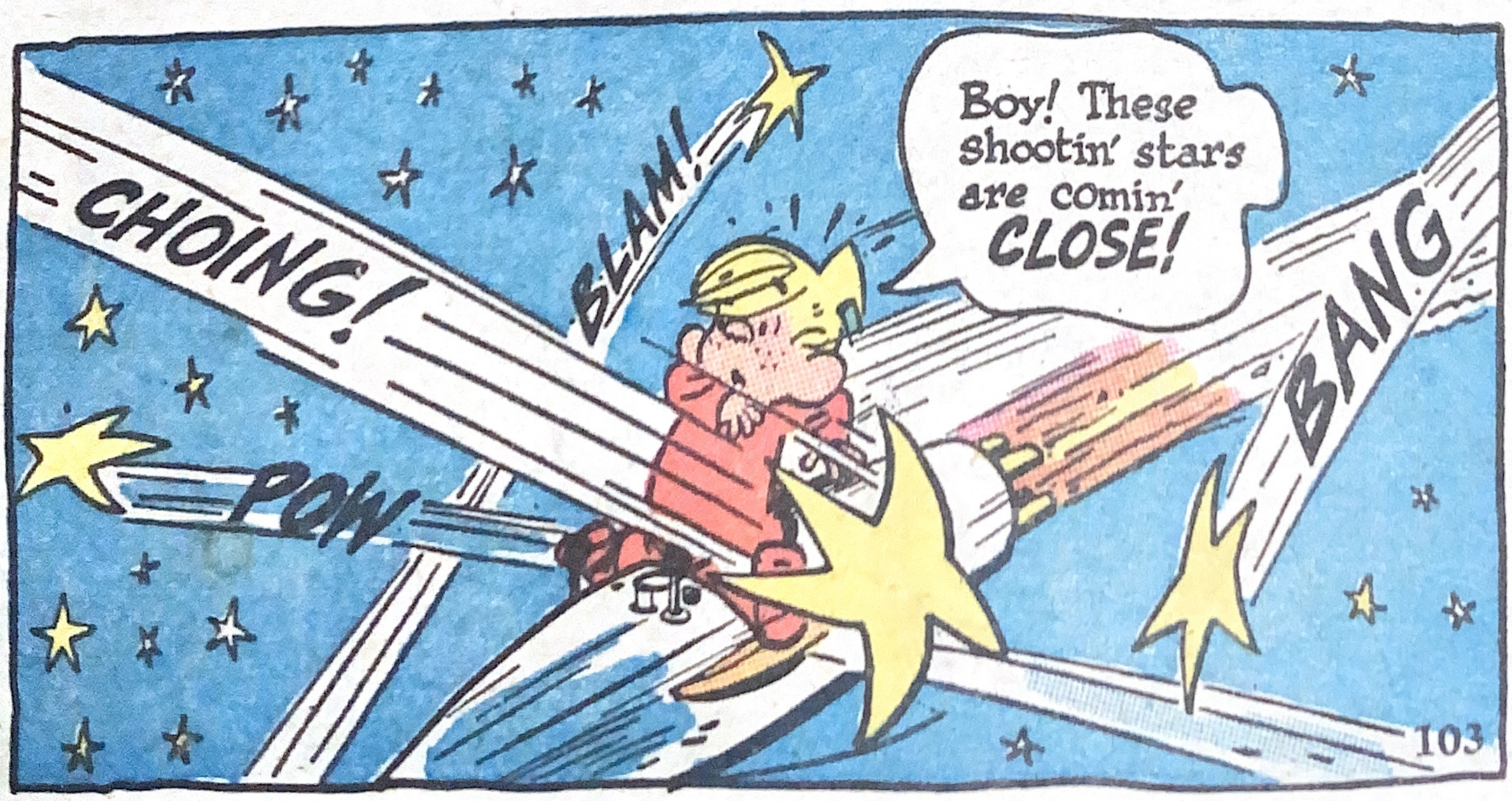
I even got some white mice for PETS!
Hmm!
What do you FEED 'em? Nothin' but CHEESE, I s'pose!


Heck, no! I feed 'em PEANUT BUTTER 'N JELLY SAMWICHES!
You DO?
MMMMMM!
That's what I wish the MOON was made of... PEANUT BUTTER AN' JELLY!
Me, too! I'm sure TIRED of cheese!

I guess you're okay ....you can go. But tell those people down there to stop SHOOTIN' at us, huh?
Thanks! I will!

'BYE!
Say hello to your white mice!

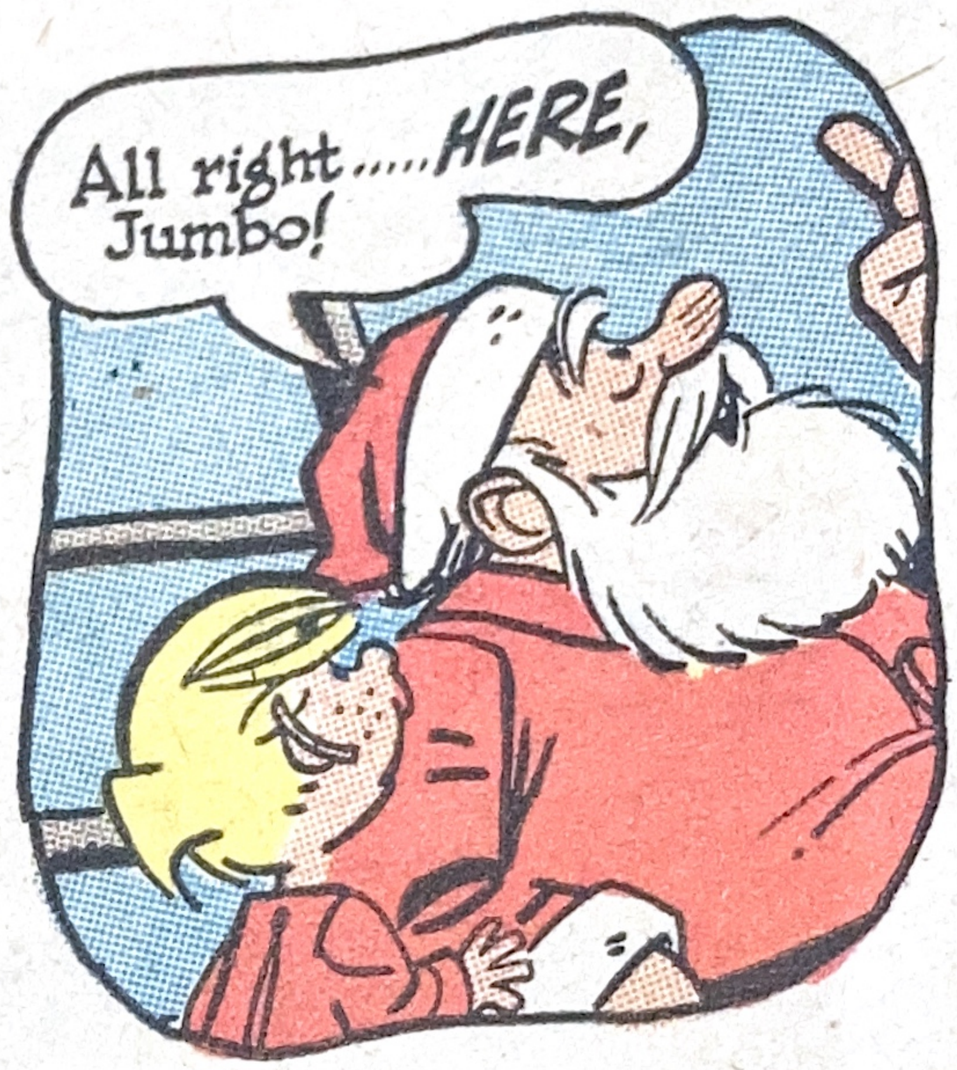

Ugh! This must be the MILKY WAY! Why didn't they make it outta ROOT BEER!


CHOING!
BLAM!
Boy! These shootin' stars are comin' CLOSE!
BANG
POW

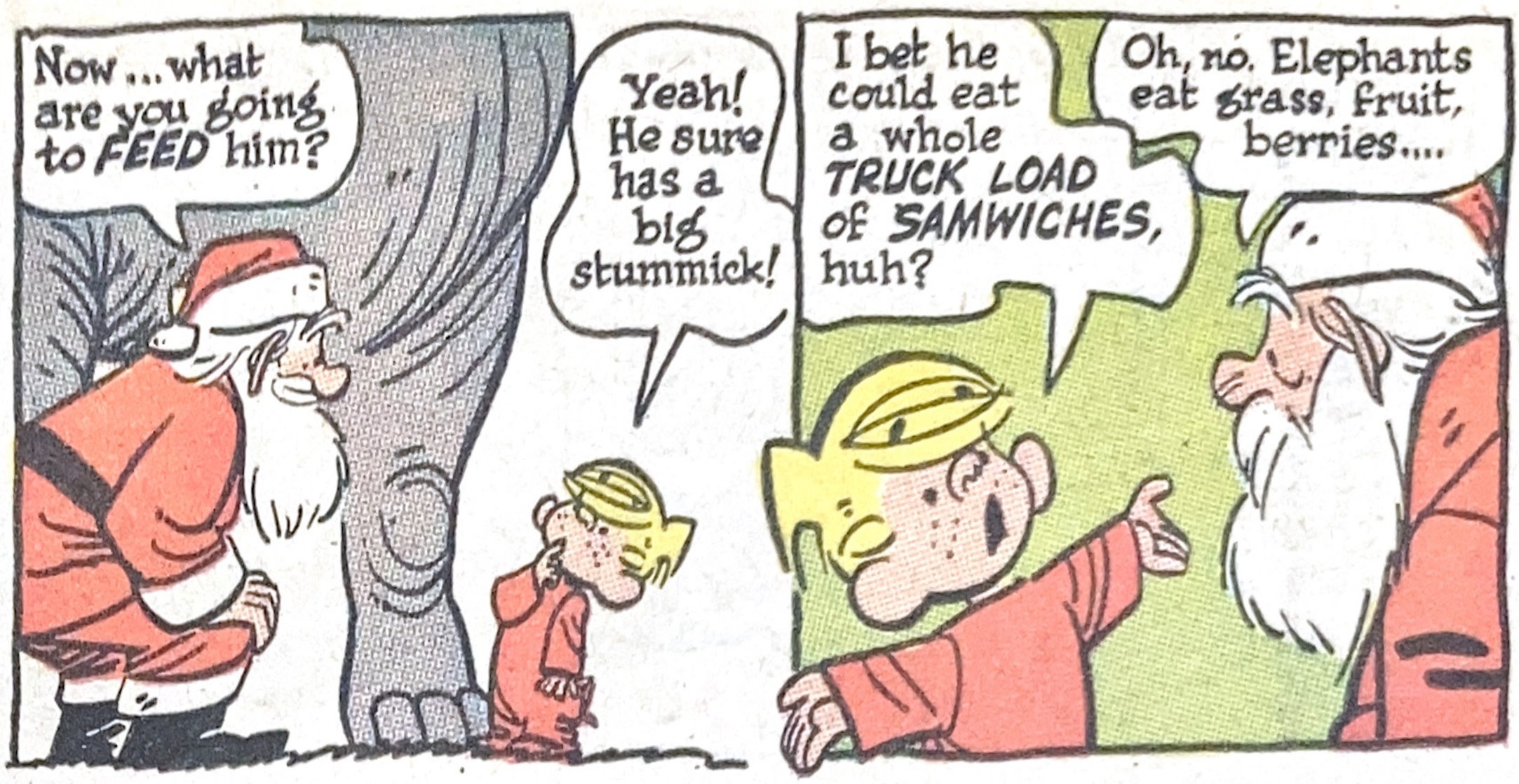
Not so good up on the moon ... eh, Dennis?
Gosh, NO! I KNEW it was made outta CHEESE, but I never thought it would be fulla MICE!

That's the trouble, Dennis... we don't think BIG enough!
BIG, huh?

I'M thinkin' big! I think I'll have my BIG ELEPHANT now!
You never give up, do you?


All right..... HERE, Jumbo!

Gee! I didn't think I was thinkin' THAT big!
HO, HO, HO! You asked for it!


Now ... what are you going to FEED him?
Yeah! He sure has a big stummick!
I bet he could eat a whole TRUCK LOAD of SAMWICHES, huh?
Oh, no. Elephants eat grass, fruit, berries....

HEY! THOSE ARE MY MOM'S BEST ROSE BUSHES!
And mighty TASTY, it looks like! ho, ho!

We better hide him in the garage .....if he can FIT in!
Well, he might CRAWL in! Down Jumbo ... DOWN!